

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الدار

## New York blast lawyers protest gag order

NEW YORK (AP) — A gag order in the World Trade Centre bombing case has silenced only the defendants, subjecting them to "extraordinary" Tuesday. "Everybody has been speaking out on this case except for the defendants and their lawyers told an appeals court Tuesday. "Everybody has been speaking out on this case except for the defendants and their lawyers," Martin Garbus told the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan. Burt Neuborne, another lawyer, said Judge Kevin T. Duffy's order "not only silences the lawyer but cuts off the defendant from speaking on his own behalf." Both lawyers asked the three-judge panel to immediately lift the gag order. The panel did not rule. Mr. Garbus represents Nidal A. Ayyad of Maplewood, New Jersey, while Mr. Neuborne represents Mohammad Salameh of Jersey City. The 25-year-old defendants are among five men charged with using explosives to damage the World Trade Centre on Feb. 26. The blast in a killing six people, injuring more than 1,000 and causing damage that forced much of the complex to close for a month.

## Khamenei slams peace talks, Mubarak

TEHRAN (AP) — Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Wednesday blasted the resumption of the Middle East peace talks and accused Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak of "begging to the United States." In a speech to Iranian officials in charge of the Mecca pilgrimage, the spiritual and political leader of the Islamic republic called Arab talks with Israel as "dishonourable." "No-one has the right to sign an agreement on behalf of Palestinian people and sell Palestine to its occupiers," Ayatollah Khamenei said, according to state radio. "We hope this agreement will never be signed." If it is, it will not be honoured by the people of Palestine and Muslims all over the world. "Washington is making a mistake," he said. "Gathering Arab governments around a dishonourable negotiating table would only make them more contemptible to and distant from their own people." He said Mr. Mubarak, "like a beggar with extended hand, has gone to the American president to complain about Iran." Mr. Mubarak has repeatedly accused Iran of backing fundamentalist militants in Egypt. During a trip to Washington earlier this month, he and President Bill Clinton vowed to counter Iran's "involvement in terrorism."

Volume 17 Number 5295

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 29-30, 1993, THU EL QU'DEH 8-9, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Next issue on Sunday

THE JORDAN TIMES will not be published on Saturday, May 1, since the newspaper will be observing the Labour Day holiday on Friday, April 30. The next issue of the paper will appear on Sunday, May 2. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a happy Labour Day holiday.

## No free German sub for Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe told Israeli leaders that his government does not have the money to build a third submarine for Israel for free, as it had requested, a newspaper reported Wednesday. Germany is paying for two Dolphin submarines for the Israeli navy as part of a military aid package granted after the 1991 Gulf war. The two submarines, being built at a shipyard in the German port city of Kiel, cost about 880 million marks (\$550 million). German leaders told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during a September 1992 visit to Bonn that they would favourably consider giving Israel a third submarine, the Haaretz daily said Wednesday. But Mr. Ruehe told Mr. Rabin in a meeting Tuesday that money was tight because of the high cost of German unification, Haaretz said.

## Gunmen kill policeman in southern Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt (AP) — Gunmen shot and killed a plainclothes policeman in southern Egypt Wednesday as he was on his way to work. Muslim extremists claimed responsibility for the attack. Police said three gunmen opened fire on Hassan Kamel Barakat, 43, in Al Qusiya town, south of Assiut, a focus of Muslim extremist violence 300 kilometres south of Cairo. The official said the assailants fled in a car in the direction of Dairut. Police set up roadblocks looking for them. In Assiut, an extremist stronghold 70 kilometres further south, Al Gamaa Al Islamiya (Muslim Group) told local reporters it was responsible for the shooting. It said the attack was in response to the government's announcement on Monday that it captured an extremist cell responsible for five attacks against foreign tourists and official figures.

## American missing in Iraq-Kuwait border

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — An American oil worker has disappeared along the Kuwait-Iraq border, officials said Wednesday. The American has reported missing two days earlier after Kuwaiti border guards saw him head north, according to Sheikh Ali-Salem Al Sabah, Kuwait's interior and defence minister. The Interior Ministry told the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNKOM) that the American was missing, but UNKOM officials did not know anything about the case. The Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Naba Monday reported the disappearance of a worker for the Mte Feil oil company, identifying him as Ken Batey. Santa Fe officials confirmed he was missing but gave no details.

## Uganda peace talks start in Abuja

BUJA (R) — Full peace talks between Sudan's government and rebel forces opened in Abuja Wednesday but were interrupted by a rebel demand for an international observer. The government posed the demand at Nigerian-mediated talks saying it was not a pre-conference agreement. Nal Deng, spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said the rebel force requested an observer during his meeting with Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida earlier this month. "I believe this is an essential condition that must not be overlooked although we still have little confidence in the fighting role of Nigeria," Mr. Deng told reporters. He said the rebel force could be any member of international community interested in the Sudanese conflict.

## Combined agency dispatches

THE NINTH round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks marked its second day with an added Arab expectation that an American promise to assume a more active role could bring about a fairer Middle East peace process.

Syria and Israel argued Wednesday over how direct a role the U.S. should play in the negotiations.

"We are pleased with the fact that the United States is intimately involved," Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, told reporters when he arrived at the State Department for the morning's talks.

But he added: "We are also pleased with the limits set by the United States on its role as 'full partner.' It is not an excessively active role, nothing is done to confound the character of these negotiations as direct negotiations."

Syria's chief negotiator, Mouwafak Al Alaf, made it clear a few minutes later that his country was ready for more direct intervention by the United States and Russia, the two sponsors of the 18-month-old peace process. "I do not see any objection, if there are difficulties, that the co-sponsors sit with the two sides that are facing difficulties in order to help them," he said.

Israel also resumed talks with Jordan and Lebanon on Wednesday. A session between Israel and the Palestinians was set for Wednesday afternoon.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa welcomed the active U.S. role in the peace talks and said it hopes it will bring

## U.S. move boosts hopes in peace process

progress. Newspapers quoted Mr. Sharaa as saying the U.S. administration had pledged to carry on the peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991.

"The new U.S. administration has renewed to us all the commitments and pledges made by the former administration prior to the Madrid conference," Mr. Sharaa said at a meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Karachi Tuesday.

"It is our hope that these statements will be turned into actions."

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held an unprecedented meeting with the heads of all delegations in Washington Tuesday to show his determination to be a full, unbiased partner in the process.

"These U.S. statements are a cause of optimism for us. We as Arabs do not want America to be biased to us. We want her to be biased in favour of peace and the peace process," Mr. Alaf said after the meeting.

An Arab diplomatic source emphasised that Mr. Christopher's meeting with all the sides marked a change in the U.S. approach. The new administration is "more active" than the previous administration, he said.

"The United States wants to show that it can advance the peace process. If this round fails, it will be slap in the face for the new administration after months of efforts to restart the talks," an Israeli delegate told AFP.

Before a Senate subcommittee, Mr. Christopher had emphasised the determination of the United States to work actively with all sides, offering help, ideas and



U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Tuesday chairs a meeting with delegates to Middle East peace talks in Washington. From left to right are: Palestinians Haidar Abdul Shafi and Faisal Husseini, Jordan's Fayez Tarawneh and Abdul Salam Al Majali, Edward Djerejian of the State Department, Mr. Christopher, Tom Donilon of the State Department, and Israel's Elyakim Rubinstein, Eitan Ben-Zur and Danny Rothchild (AFP photo)

suggestions to overcome differences.

But the Palestinians, reluctant to return to the table in the first place, accused Israel of escalating violence on the West Bank, especially in Gaza, and raised the specter of an early walkout.

"We cannot really be engaged in a negotiating process that continues without any result, and we cannot assume such responsibility," Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi said. "So we have to know in a short time where things stand and whether there will be enough to allow for progress and advance in the negotiating process."

He said Israel presented no new proposals. "You don't know

how frustrated we are," he told reporters Tuesday night.

Mr. Christopher's intervention, as Mideast talks resumed after four months, seemed to signal a more aggressive role in the search for agreement on Palestinian self-rule and peace between Israel and Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

But Mr. Christopher said while the Clinton administration intended to be "helpful in every way we can," the key to a successful outcome was direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

"We'll continue to play the role we have over the last few months, a partner in the sense of an honest broker," he said.

Mr. Christopher's recent assertions the United States intended to be a "full partner" had suggested the Clinton administration, in its first encounter with the intractable Arab-Israeli dispute, would try to influence the deliberations as Arab governments and dovish Israelis had long urged.

But as he posed for pictures in a conference room with the chief Israeli, Palestinian, Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese negotiators, Mr. Christopher said the United States would not make a specific proposal.

"Direct negotiations is the only way to achieve peace," he said. At the same time, he urged

Israel and the Arabs "to focus on the substance of the negotiations — not process, not procedure, but to get down to the real substance of the negotiations."

Taking part in Mr. Christopher's session with the delegation heads was Viktor Gogintze, a Middle East specialist in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Christopher said he thought it was the first time a secretary of state had met with the principal negotiators.

As the talks resumed, Israel insisted that Syria spell out its peace terms and Syria demanded surrender of all land the Israel seized in the 1967 war.

"There is nothing important to report today," Mr. Alaf said after the two sides had met for two hours Tuesday. Agreeing, Mr. Rabinovich, who doubles as Israel's ambassador to the U.S. and as a negotiator, told reporters: "Much was not accomplished today."

He said Syria had been "rather vague" about its peace offer. But, Mr. Rabinovich said, "there is a mutual agreement to move forward."

"We posed relevant questions to the Israeli side and we shall continue hoping that we will receive answers to our questions very soon," Dr. Abdul Shafi said, warning "he cannot really continue to be engaged in a negotiating process that continues without any results."

"And we can't assume such responsibilities," he added, "so we ought to know in a short time where things stand and whether there will be enough to allow for progress."

The head of the Israeli delegation, Elyakim Rubinstein, in turn

## called the day a "fruitful" one.

"We laid down our approach to the negotiations both in general principles and in the specific avenues," Mr. Rubinstein said, stressing the need to "engage in substance."

"We will continue to try to engage on most of these avenues with the spirit of achieving results, moving ahead, understanding each other's problems and needs," he said.

Jordan's chief delegate Abdul Salam Majali expressed doubts on progress between Jordan and Israel, if the Israelis did not make headway with other groups.

Israeli negotiator Uri Lubrani called talks with the Lebanese very positive.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday that Israel was prepared to "take risks to bring about peace."

"We have good chances to move towards peace in the Middle East," Mr. Rabin told a United Jewish Appeal delegation in Israel, adding: "We are ready to take risks to bring about peace, as we took to make war."

The prime minister said to the American fundraisers: "Israel will do all it can to make peace with its Arab and Palestinian neighbours in the mutual interest of all the parties involved."

Mr. Rabin predicted that "next year we will find ourselves at a crossroads, and we'll know whether the Middle East is headed towards peace or immolation, violence and terrorism."

The Israeli prime minister said he had spoken by telephone with Mr. Christopher and Israeli diplomats at the peace talks. He did not reveal the contents of the conversations.

## 30 Palestinian exiles since 1967 get Israeli clearance to return

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian expellees living in Jordan packed their bags and prepared to return to their homes Wednesday after reports from Washington confirmed Israeli acceptance to allow 30 Palestinian exiles to return to the occupied territories.

A list of names released simultaneously by the Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel in Washington and Palestinian sources in Amman indicated that last minute attempts failed to persuade the Jewish state to increase the number of "returnees" to 35, including at least three prominent student activists who were expelled by the occupation authorities.

The exiles are expected to return to the occupied territories as early as Friday morning.

"We expect that they may be going back Friday," Mamduh Nofel, a close adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, told the Jordan Times Wednesday by phone from Tunis.

Most of the people included in the list are believed to be independent supporters of the mainstream leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) although none of them currently occupy any senior official position, except in some cases, membership in

the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, or the Palestine Central Council (PCC), which liaises between the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC.

The Israeli delegation to the peace talks presented the list to the Palestinian team in Washington through the American sponsors of the negotiations Tuesday. The list included only 30 names out of 50 originally drawn up by the PLO and given to the Israelis for approval.

The Palestinians sought to include five more expellees, belonging to the mainstream Fatah group.

The last minute withdrawal of the five names by Israel was due to pressure from the Israeli opposition party Likud, Palestinian officials said. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu put pressure on (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin to take some of the names off the list, said a PLO official.

Leaders of student unions from the West Bank's two largest and most politically active universities — Al Najah in Nablus and Bir Zeit in the town of Bir Zeit — were on the list of five which Israel vetoed, the official said.

Marwan Barghout, expelled in 1987 after being elected for a fourth term to head the Bir Zeit Student Union was one. The other was Khalil Ashuri, former head of the student union at Al Najah.

Amin Makbul, along with Mr. Barghout and Mr. Ashuri, was to be the third Fatah supporter to be stricken from the list.

Three of "returnees" — Abdul Jawad Saleh, Hanna Nasir and Walid Kamhawi — are former members of the PLO Executive Committee and still have seats on the PNC. The list includes eight PNC members and five PCC members.

At least one of those expected to return, Dr. Azmi Shu'abi, is a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — Abed Rabbo wing.

Mass celebrations are planned along the road to the bridge on the east side of the Jordan River and a public welcome ceremony will await the returnees in Jericho.

The following is the list of "returnees":  
Rawhi Al Khalib; Abdul Jawad Saleh; Naim Al Ashbah; Abdul Aziz Al Hajj Ahmad; Hanna Nasir; Azmi Shu'abi; Issam Abdul Hadi; Fayez Warrad; Mahmoud Shukair; Hassan Abdul Jawad; Mustafa Milben; Faisal Al Kanana; Walid Kamhawi; Dawoud Erekat; Adli Dalila; Rushdi Shuhid; Adnan Al Bakari; Kamal Al Dajjani; Khalil Sawahiri; Abdullah Soriyani; Mahmoud Hamad; Messa Al Shakhbazi; Damin Hassan Odeh; Shihab Shalabi; Ibrahim Abu Jurd; Mahmoud Moudiri; Badi Al Yaziji; Mahmoud Al Zaghar; Shakir Abu Jumleh; Samih Amin Al Nasr.

## Peres pledges status quo during autonomy

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday Israel was ready to give the Palestinians "a timetable instead of a map" at this stage of the Middle East peace talks.

Speaking during a special parliamentary debate, Mr. Peres said that Israel would not alter the status of the occupied territories during an interim stage of self-rule under negotiation at the peace table in Washington.

The talks resumed Tuesday after a several-month hiatus and little initial progress was reported.

Mr. Peres' comments dealt with the core of the dispute with the Palestinians, namely the fight over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where nearly two million Palestinians and some 110,000 Jewish settlers live.

He said Israel was committed to reaching an overall peace with the Arabs at the current talks, the ninth round of negotiations since the Madrid conference in October 1991.

"The Palestinians will not now receive full independence, but autonomy. At this stage, in keeping with the views of all parties, a permanent settlement cannot be reached," he said.

"They will receive a timetable instead of a map," Mr. Peres added, referring to the five years allocated for self-rule. Negotiations for a final settlement are to begin three years into self-rule.

Until a permanent agreement is reached the West Bank and Gaza will "retain the same status," of neither Israeli or Palestinian sovereignty, Mr. Peres said.

As an example, he said there would be no changes in land ownership in these areas. Israelis and Palestinians living there would run their own lives, said Mr. Peres, "the entire matter is based on logic and fairness."

The authority Israel is offering the Palestinians includes a police force as well as autonomy over health, education, welfare and some land administration. The Palestinians have said previously that the Israeli position appeared to leave them room to claim land by pushing ahead with settlement programmes.

## 2 Gazans killed; Israel wants foreigners to replace workers

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (Agency) — Israeli troops Wednesday shot dead two Palestinians in the Shati and Bureij refugee camps of the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said.

Rami Abu Nahel, 12, has shot in the head as he threw stones during a demonstration against Israeli soldiers posted on a rooftop at the Shati camp.

Earlier, Israeli troops shot Khaled Alhazal, 20, in the chest in a similar incident in the Bureij camp. He died before reaching hospital.

On Tuesday, Israeli troops shot and wounded 55 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, 22 of them in the Bureij camp.

Witnesses said the army fired live ammunition in response to light stone-throwing without first using tear-gas as it usually does.

In another development, officials said Israel is to import building labourers to replace some of the thousands of Palestinians thrown out of work by an indefinite ban on them leaving the occupied territories.

An inter-ministerial committee

has been set up to decide how many workers to bring in for the construction industry and to review the economic effects of the month-long closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The building contractor's association, representing the construction industry which claims to be losing nearly \$2 million a day, has demanded 10,000 foreigners. Members have threatened to refuse to take on unemployed Israelis — who are untrained and cost more — unless foreigners are found quickly.

Labour Minister Orna Namir said Wednesday that "far fewer than 10,000" foreigners would be brought in.

According to Israel's employment service 100,000 Israelis, 30,000 Palestinians and 425 foreigners were legally employed in the construction industry before the occupied territories were sealed at the end of March.

But an estimated 30,000 more Palestinians were illegally working in the industry, usually at cheap rates and without any social rights.

Nearly 120,000 Palestinian

worked in Israel before the ban. Since the closure the authorities have granted special work permits to only 5,000 Palestinian building workers, only half of whom have gone to work on a daily basis.

The cabinet rubber-stamped the indefinite closure against Tuesday and rejected left-wing calls for unemployment benefit to be paid to Palestinians as "prematuring."

A military court convicted an Israeli soldier of harassing an Arab woman in the occupied Gaza Strip last week, the army said.

Palestinian said soldiers had fondled the woman and forced her to lie on a bed but fled when she screamed.

The army said a soldier found guilty of making improper statements to the woman had been sentenced to 56 days in jail.

His commanding officer, whom the army said bore responsibility but was not directly involved, was sentenced to 14 days of community work.

The soldiers' names were not released.

## Ruling parties seen winning Yemeni polls

SANAA (AP) — Yemeni electoral officials counted ballots Wednesday amid indications the ruling coalition was scoring a clear victory, after a day of colourful and enthusiastic voting.

Heavily veiled women and bearded, cloaked men converged on 2,000 polling stations Tuesday to choose 301 parliamentary representatives from more than 3,600 candidates.

By 6:00 p.m. (1500 GMT) Tuesday, when the polls shut, at least 80 per cent of the 2.7 million voters had turned out. But Abdul Malek Al Mekhlafi, spokesman for the supreme committee for elections, told reporters early Wednesday the turnout was as high as 95 per cent.

Early returns reported by electoral authorities showed the present ruling coalition of the General People's Congress (GPC) and Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) emerging as the overall winners. But questions remained over the exact composition of the new parliament and over the conduct of the elections.

Opposition leaders claimed the two coalition partners were engineering the electoral outcome

in order to remain in power another five years.

Despite such claims, the Yemeni people turned out to vote in droves queuing up early to cast their votes.

The voting was largely peaceful, with some 37,000 soldiers guarding the polling centres. But Mr. Mekhlafi revealed without elaborating that one candidate died in the course of voting in the Hodaida province.

Local residents, electoral officials and police sources cited the following incidents and irregularities:

Aimless gunfire by motorists in a speeding car in an Aden precinct. The unidentified gunmen were apparently bent on scaring away voters.



Ali Abdullah Saleh (Islah) in the Aden constituency of Mualla. An Islah leader claimed that an undisclosed number of his followers were injured. Security officials in Sanaa refused to comment on this.

A total of seven voters suffered minor injuries in fist-fights and accidents, police said.

Aden's security chief, Ahmad Al Shahzi, tendered his resignation in protest against untested election excesses and irregularities.

Results of the election will not be announced until the ballots in all 301 precincts have been tallied. Officials estimated that would take until Friday.



# MAP

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الجمعية الأردنية للطبي للفلسطينيين  
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The grand prize and other prizes will be handed to the winners on the day of the march, May 14, 1993, at Nazek Al Hariri Centre

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Drawing the lots will take place May 12, 1993 and results will be announced in the local press  
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  2. Al Rainbow Star - 1st Circle
  3. George Sahliyah Electric Shop - Jabal Amman - Mutran Street
  4. The Flowers Club - Jabal Amman - Astra building
  5. Flowers Club - Al Fareed Complex - Al Abdali
  6. Burgan for handicrafts - 2nd Circle
  7. Bonita Restaurant - Second Circle
  8. Firas Bookshop - 3rd Circle
  9. Fayed Beauty Shop - Umm Uthaina - near Sarj Rock Hotel
  10. Sweet Supermarket - Umm Uthaina
  11. Kishke Jewellery - Umm Uthaina
  12. Antoine Beauty Shop - 5th Circle
  13. Al Khoul Pharmacy - 6th Circle
  14. Riwad Pharmacy - Wadi Sagra
  15. Firas Pharmacy - Jabal Al Hussein
  16. The Interior Circle Pharmacy - Jabal Al Hussein
- Bank Complex - Shmeisani**
17. Al Hussein Camp Pharmacy - Jabal Al Hussein
  18. Malak Pharmacy - Al Wihdat
  19. Al Wihdat Pharmacy - the Club Street - Al Wihdat
  20. Abu Sharif Pharmacy - Al Ashrafieh
  21. Milano Pharmacy - Gardens Street
  22. Basma pharmacy - Gardens Street
  23. Al Alia Pharmacy - Gardens Street
  24. Sakhaa Pharmacy - Gardens Street
  25. Al Maktabah Bookshop - Gardens Street
  26. University Bookshop - Gardens Street
  27. Jamal Pharmacy - Al Jubelha
  28. Al Abdali Pharmacy - Al Abdali
  29. Al Shadlan Pharmacy - the Sports City
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  31. Babish - Shmeisani
  32. Rajaa Pharmacy - Shmeisani
  33. The Jordan Clothing Company (CJC) - the Housing
- ZARQA:**
- The Modern Zarqa Pharmacy
- IRBID:**
1. Al Saadoun Pharmacy
  2. Al Shugair Pharmacy - Yarmouk University Street
  3. Al Haltham Pharmacy - Irbid Refugee Camp
- AQABA:**
- Aqaba Pharmacy

- OTHER PRIZES:**
1. Second prize: DAEWOO televisions set, coloured, 29 inches, presented by the South Electronics Establishment.
  2. Third prize: OKI OF-7 facsimile machine, presented by the Modern Arab Establishment for Business.
  3. Fourth prize: Amman-Toronto-Amman air ticket, presented by the Royal Jordanian.
  4. Fifth prize: Amman-Frankfurt-Amman air ticket, presented by the Royal Jordanian.
  5. Sixth prize: Samsung television set, 14 inches, presented by Ahmad Issa Murad Company.
  6. Seventh prize: Samsung television set, 14 inches, presented by Ahmad Issa Murad Company.
  7. Eighth prize: Goldstar television set, 14 inches, presented by Darwish Al Khalili Company.
  8. Ninth prize: Goldstar television set, 14 inches, presented by Darwish Al Khalili Company.
  9. Tenth prize: Amman-Rome-Amman air ticket, presented by the Royal Jordanian.
  10. Eleventh prize: Amman-Greece-Amman air ticket presented by the Royal Jordanian.
  11. Twelfth prize: Sony stereo set, presented by Sony Company.
- In addition to other consolation prizes

JORDAN TIMES  
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## Eritrea faces struggle to rebuild

NAIROBI (AFP) — Eritrea's long struggle for independence is over, but the struggle for peace and prosperity in an arid land devastated by war and famine is just beginning, diplomats and analysts said.

"Eritrea has already become a sovereign and independent state," said Issaias Afewerki, head of the provisional government formed two years ago after the capital Asmara fell to guerrillas of his Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF).

Speaking after the announcement Tuesday that more than 99 per cent of voters in last weekend's referendum on secession from Ethiopia had cast their ballots for independence, Mr. Issaias said: "I praise the Eritreans who have sacrificed their children to realise this democratic experience."

Mr. Issaias, 48, who looks wet

to become independent Eritrea's first president, quit university in Addis Ababa to join the guerrilla movement for independence in 1966, four years after Ethiopia annexed Eritrea in 1962.

Despite his Marxist beginnings, Mr. Issaias is seen as a forward-looking pragmatist.

He has established close relations with Israel, despite the Jewish state's support for the regime of ousted Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam, who once declared that he wanted to exterminate Eritreans and give Ethiopians their land.

"If we pay attention to all the things foreign powers have done to us in the past, we will never have any friends," Mr. Issaias said last week.

Eritrea's split with Ethiopia is viewed as the result of a deal struck by Mr. Issaias and Ethiopian President Meles Zenawi

when both were guerrilla leaders fighting Colonel Mengistu.

After the referendum vote was announced, Mr. Issaias held talks with Ethiopian Information Minister Negasso Gidada, who said the referendum had been free and fair and the outcome would be an opportunity for the two countries to enhance their relations.

Eritrea's Economics Secretary Haile Woldemariam said Eritrea had not yet decided whether to abandon the Ethiopian birr in favour of its own currency. But sources close to the government said Eritrea was likely to retain the birr.

Mr. Issaias says he wants to integrate the economies of Ethiopia and Eritrea, and even form a wider economic cooperation zone including other Horn of Africa countries.

But the effort to rebuild Eritrea will be enormous.

## U.S. troops end Somali tour before handover

MERCA, Somalia (R) — U.S. troops turned over policing duties in this Somali port to Pakistani forces Wednesday, the last stage of an American pullout before the U.N. takes full control next month.

"It is all over, it is all over," U.S. troops chanted as they hugged each other at a ceremony in a muddy camp in this port 160 kilometres south of the capital Mogadishu.

U.S. troops gave security responsibility to a Pakistani regiment. With 4,761 troops, Pakistan provides the largest contingent in the 35-nation, 30,800-strong U.N. military operation in Somalia.

It was the last such transition before the U.S.-led Unified Task Force (UNITAF) hands over to United Nations operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) at a function sometime next week.

"For all practical purposes, this is the end of the U.S. mission," said U.S. Marine Colonel Fred Peck, UNITAF spokesman.

Turkish UNOSOM II commander General Cevik Bir and UNITAF commander Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston have suggested a May 4 official handover date. U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali is yet to approve.

U.S. Marines earlier this week pulled out of the capital Mogadishu where they began their mission in December to restore order and protect relief convoys from marauding militias which had plunged Somalia into chaos.

"All U.S. troops without a role in UNOSOM II will be out of here (Somalia) by April 30," Col. Peck said.

"The U.S. will have a ground quick reaction force of about 1,200 troops, and a further 2,200 troops aboard a ship off the Somali coast to deter any people with designs of disrupting the U.N. mission," he said.

"In addition, there will be staffers retained in the logistics and administration divisions at the UNOSOM II headquarters."

The troops in Merca were part of a UNITAF coalition that peaked at around 33,000 soldiers who largely halted clan-based fighting and opened up food corridors to hundreds of thousands of starving people. At least 300,000 Somalis died in a 20-month war-induced famine.

U.S. military officials said that the U.N. troops would be equipped with a recently introduced pepper spray which U.S. forces have used to incapacitate aggressors for handoffs while avoiding doing serious injury.

Col. Peck said that the so-called "quick reaction liquid" was made with cayenne pepper and had been successfully used by police departments in the United States.

"It is just that simple — liquid hot pepper," Col. Peck said.

"It involuntarily incapacitates anyone who dares disobey lawful orders to desist from certain criminal acts, or want to engage in warfare despite all warnings not to."

Cayenne pepper spray, as it is called, was first used in Mogadishu on March 22 on a Somali youth who tried to get onto a military jeep, despite the presence of armed troops.

## Cypriot gunboat fires on Turkish ship; two wounded

NICOSIA (R) — A Greek Cypriot gunboat fired at a Turkish freighter in the Mediterranean Wednesday, wounding the captain and a seaman.

Rauf Denktaş, leader of the Turkish Cypriot state in the northern third of the island, said the 680-tonne coaster Alp-5 came under fire in international waters.

Cypriot government officials insisted the vessel was six miles off the southeast coast, inside the 12-mile territorial limit between the southern ports of Larnaca and Limassol. They also said it was unmarked, had no flag and refused to stop.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Alocos Michaelides told a parliamentary committee meeting: "We warned them for 20 minutes and fired warning shots. They did not stop so we were forced to shoot."

It was second major incident between the island's rival communities this month. A Greek Cypriot conscript was shot dead in the U.N.-controlled buffer zone in Nicosia on April 8.

The Turkish Cypriot Tak news agency said the ship's captain Hasan Guclin was grazed in the stomach by a bullet and seaman Hasan Kalkan was shot in the foot. A British military helicopter had taken off to fly them to hospital in the Turkish Cypriot sector of Nicosia.

Mr. Denktaş, who learned of the incident during talks with U.N. Cyprus envoy Gustave Feilseth, lodged an immediate protest with the United Nations.

"They (Greek Cypriots) have no right to stop a ship in international waters. We don't even know if they called a halt," Tak quoted Mr. Denktaş as telling reporters in the Turkish Cypriot part of divided Nicosia.

"They could have boarded the ship for a search or forced it to a port instead of opening fire," said Mr. Denktaş. "For them it is a pleasure to open fire when they see a Turkish flag."

Mr. Denktaş and Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides are due to meet in New York on May 24 for U.N.-brokered talks to unite the island as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

A Turkish Cypriot port official in Famagusta said the Istanbul-registered Alp-5 was cruising eight miles off the coast in international waters when it was accosted by the gunboat at 10.30 a.m. (0730 GMT).

He said the gunboat opened fire five minutes later when the ship did not stop. New Delhi (R) said the vessel was fired at for 30 minutes. It had made repeated calls on the coaster to identify itself and stop.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Conference on Jerusalem opens in Athens

ATHENS (R) — Israelis and Palestinians met in Athens Tuesday for an informal discussion on their problems and the future of Jerusalem at a U.N.-sponsored conference. Billed as an "encounter," the meeting coincided with the resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington after a four-month suspension. Greek Foreign Minister Mihailis Papaconstantinou said the Athens meeting had a "symbolic meaning beyond its substantial contribution to peace efforts" because it was the first time experts were discussing the existing and future status of Jerusalem. The team of Israeli politicians, academics and journalists included Knesset member Yael Dayan and Jerusalem city council member Moshe Amivav. A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official, Sami Musallam, was among the Palestinian panelists. The two-day meeting, named "Jerusalem: visions of reconciliation," is designed to bring together the two sides of the Middle East dispute to discuss confidence building measures.

### Two Australians charged with desertion in Somalia

CANBERRA (AFP) — Two Australian soldiers serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia have been charged with desertion, the Defence Department said Wednesday. Private Dennis Wheat, 24, and Private Daniel Huckerby, 23, were formally charged by their commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel David Hurley, Tuesday and will be court-martialed in mid-May, a spokeswoman said. If convicted, they face a maximum sentence under military law of five years in prison. Mr. Wheat and Mr. Huckerby are members of the First Battalion, which forms the core of the 900-strong Australian force in Somalia until May as part of multinational peacekeeping force. The two soldiers allegedly went missing in the Kenyan port city of Mombasa on April 12 after a 48-hour rest and recreation break from Somalia. A full search was launched for the two, but after a week they called the Australian High Commission in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. The spokeswoman said that as the two soldiers had been formally charged, no further discussion of the case was permitted by law.

### Indictments sought in Iraqi 'supergun' case

TERNI, Italy (AP) — Prosecutors Tuesday asked for the indictment of seven people on illegal arms trafficking charges for allegedly trying to supply Iraq with parts for a "supergun," a news agency reported. The allegations stem from the seizure of nearly 100 steel parts in Naples in May 1990. Iraq contended the parts were destined for petrochemical projects, but authorities suspect they were to be used in the constructing of a giant cannon able to fire shells hundreds of kilometres. Similar seizures were made across Europe during the period. Two of the suspects were Iraqis attached to the Iraqi embassy, the ANSA news agency said. Charges also were sought against two Britons who represented a company suspected of being a front to acquire the parts, ANSA said. Most of the parts had been made in a foundry in this Umbrian city in central Italy owned by the state industrial conglomerate IRI. Two of the suspects are Italians who worked at the foundry, and another was an Italian consultant who allegedly helped coordinate the project, ANSA said.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

- 17:30 Pif et Hercule  
17:45 Superchamps  
18:15 L'cole des fous  
18:30 News in French  
18:45 News in Hebrew  
19:00 News in Arabic  
19:15 Coach  
19:30 News in English  
19:45 News in English  
20:00 Festez Buz: "Drive Like Lightning"

### PRAYER TIMES

- 04:23 Fair  
05:57 (Sunrise) Daba  
12:34 Dhuhr  
16:13 'Asr  
19:13 Maghreb  
20:43 'Isha

### CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifish Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

### De la Salle Church Tel. 661257

Terranova Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 625226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824 and 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 8/24

Aqaba 16/31

Deserts 6/25

Jordan Valley 14/30

### USEFUL TELEPHONE

### NIGHT DUTY

- AMMAN:
- Dr. Babjat Bader 849362  
Dr. Ahmad Yousef 783384  
Dr. Mohamed Al Abdali 778259  
Dr. Mohamed Al Haddad 882787  
Firas pharmacy 641912  
Feras pharmacy 783336  
Al Asana pharmacy 637055  
Nasrallah pharmacy 636772  
Al Salem pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Najla pharmacy 847632
- IRBID:
- Dr. Ali Al Shugair (-)  
Al Ouda pharmacy (-)
- ZARQA:
- Dr. Abdel Karim Khadashah (-)

### EMERGENCIES

- Civil Defence Department 661111  
Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777  
Road Bank 891228  
Highway Police 843402  
Traffic Police 896390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 602800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 897467  
Amman Municipality 630321  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 921  
Oversize Calls 010230  
Central Amman Telephone 623401  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615  
Electric Power Company 636381

### HOSPITALS

- AMMAN:
- Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816/2  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642412/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Helwan, J. Amman 634140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 641714  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 848484  
Al-Mushor Hospital 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali 664275/7  
Al-Ami, Abdali 641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajirun 771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Asrafieh 773112/26  
Army, Marka 891611/15  
Queen Aila Hospital 632405/0  
Amal Hospital 674153
- ZARQA:
- Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital (09)903560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)983732  
Al-Hilwa Modern Hospital (09)997990
- IRBID:
- Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775  
Ruq Al-Nafsa Hospital (02)247100
- AQABA:

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

- 06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
06:15 Sana'a (RJ)  
06:45 Cairo, Asmara (RJ)  
06:15 Riyadh (RJ)  
06:45 Colombo (RJ)  
07:15 Beirut (RJ)  
07:25 Larnaca (RJ)  
07:35 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
07:40 Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
07:55 London, Berlin (RJ)  
08:30 Athens (RJ)  
08:45 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
14:00 Riyadh (SU)  
16:55 Rome (AZ)  
18:00 Dubai (EM)  
21:45 Cairo (MS)

### DEPARTURES

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1)

- 07:15 Beirut (RJ)  
07:25 Rome (RJ)  
07:35 Paris (RJ)  
07:45 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
07:55 Athens (RJ)  
08:05 Paris (RJ)  
08:15 London (RJ)  
08:30 Jeddah (RJ)  
08:45 Bahrain Doha (RJ)  
08:55 Damascus (RJ)  
09:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
09:15 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:35 Damascus, Paris (AF)  
07:05 Larnaca (CY)  
07:15 Beirut (MS)  
07:25 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)  
07:35 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

### MARKET PRICES

Apples price in fcs per kg.

- Apple 700/700  
Banana 680/680  
Banana (Mekannas) 620/620  
Beans 320/320  
Cabbage 70/40  
Carrot 150/80  
Cauliflower 200/150  
Cucumbers (large) 120/80  
Cucumbers (small) 240/180  
Eggplant 250/150  
Garlic 280/200  
Grapefruit 360/450  
Lemon 240/180  
Marrow (large) 300/180  
Marrow (small) 170/90  
Mint 90/80  
Onion (dry) 150/120  
Onion (green) 300/200  
Orange 350/250  
Pepper (hot) 350/250  
Pepper (sweet) 200/150  
Potato 180/120  
Tomato 570/350  
Spinach 320/200





Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi delivers an address on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the opening session of the Jordanian Chemical Society's first conference (Petra photo)

## Jordan on new science threshold — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday said Jordan now stands at a new threshold leading towards the building of a national foundation of science and technology and raising the standard and quality of scientific research to attain a higher level of socio-economic development.

Modern civilisation and progress are dependent on scientific and technological progress and it is no secret that advanced nations attained their present level of progress as a result of a cultural and scientific renaissance, said Prince Hassan in an address to the opening of the Jordanian Chemical Society's (JCS) first conference in Amman.

It is not a matter that there is an urgent need for the creation of new channels to transfer knowledge within the Arab Nation and Jordan since we still suffer from lack of coordination among our institutions and from dual tasks and wasted efforts, noted the Crown Prince in his address delivered on his behalf by Deputy Premier and Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi.

If Jordan is to confront development challenges, he said, it must build up and recruit capable competent scientists and talented

persons.

Prince Hassan said human and natural resources blended with research conducted by universities and scientific research centres can achieve the country's goals.

No time should be wasted and each Jordanian citizen is responsible for the development of his society, said the Prince.

He divided the world into two categories of nations: producers in the northern hemisphere and consumers in the south, who depend on the north.

Prince Hassan said that by the end of this century there would be an emergence of a new tutelage and dependence; that of technology dependence.

He explained that this would come about because there will be nations that possess and utilise technology, and others that rely on what is given to them.

Referring to the benefits of science to Jordan and future plans, the Crown Prince said Jordan hopes to transform itself into a unique industrial and chemical centre.

He said research and technology should focus, among other things, on the exploitation of the Dead Sea minerals, as well as other natural resources.

Stressing the importance of

chemistry in education at schools, the Crown Prince said that textbooks, curricula and laboratories should serve the purpose of scientific research and be continued at the university level.

JCS President Mohammad Halaqa addressed the opening session noting that chemical industries in Jordan account for more than 70 per cent of the total industrial sector, and 60 per cent of Jordan's exports are related to or based on chemistry.

Referring to the JCS's activities, Dr. Halaqa said that the society was closely cooperating with the Ministry of Education in terms of preparing a school chemistry curriculum and has been active in organising exhibitions in various governorates and training courses for chemists.

The participants in the two-day meeting are expected to review 22 working papers.

The effects of insecticides on mothers' milk and the utilisation of chemical substances in the production of medicines are among the topics to be discussed.

The Ministry of Education and the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) assisted the JCS in organising the conference.

## Public debate sparks over election law

By Sausan Ghosheh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The election law was severely attacked by participants and speakers alike at a lecture at the Arab Forum Tuesday. The critics pointed to what they saw as multiple gaps that reflect the injustices of the law.

Head of the United Arab Democratic Party Anis Mouasher, a speaker at the lecture, said "a just election law is one that ensures the best representation of the citizens taking into consideration the particularities of the Jordanian society."

He emphasised the need to develop a new law that benefits the whole society, not one sect, party or representative.

The election law, Mr. Mouasher said, should divide the districts to equate the number of voters in each district and thus the number of votes for each

voter.

He presented two options, which he said satisfy the above requirements.

The first option, Mr. Mouasher maintained, is to reorganise the election districts so that each district has only one representative. Although this option eases the election process and the communication between the voter and his/her representative, it also encourages members of Parliament to focus their interests on their particular districts at the expense of the national interest, he said.

The second option, according to Mr. Mouasher, is to apply a one-person-one-vote system and to delineate districts with an approximately equal number of representatives.

He stressed that it is "unjust to accord some citizens the right to choose ten representatives and

the others the right to only choose one."

In addition, he suggested amending the law to require that each elected representative receives a minimum 50 per cent of the votes, in order to guarantee the success of the political line that is most popular.

But, Mr. Mouasher stated that redrawing the district should not be at the expense of the particularities present in the Jordanian society, such as minorities, the refugee camps and remote areas.

He believes that several seats should be temporarily allocated for minorities in Jordan until citizens reach a level of awareness that guarantees they will elect representatives despite their origins and religion.

In addition, a significant number of seats in parliament should be allocated to representatives from remote areas to establish

equality, Mr. Mouasher maintained.

He added that the Palestinian refugee camps should not be made separate election district, but should be part of a larger district thus ensuring their participation in the election process and maintaining their right to return.

House Deputy Mohammad Abu Fares, also a speaker at the lecture, offered amendments to what he perceived as "gaps in the election law."

The first, he said requires lowering the voting age to eighteen, the age at which a person is deemed responsible before the law. "The King is able to assume power at the age of eighteen, so why should people not be able to vote at this age?" Mr. Abu Fares questioned.

The second is to allow the politicisation of the Armed Forces and the security forces, because, according to Mr. Abu Fares, they have the right to participate in the decision-making process.

Moderator Taher Hikmat said the politicisation of the Armed Forces may lead either to instability or to tyranny.

Another attendee agreed that there are dangers in allowing the armed and security forces into political parties, but he insisted that they should have the right to vote.

Mr. Abu Fares spoke against allocating a number of seats in parliament for women, a matter that disturbed the women present at the lecture.

He said women are not discriminated against in society. "They need to develop themselves... the law should not force people to vote for unqualified women."

Mr. Abu Fares maintained.

They deputy also disagreed with allocating seats in parliament for minorities, describing it as "discriminatory and unjust."

Mr. Abu Fares, a member of the Islamic Action Front, said the present election districts reinforce the tribalism that is present in society.

The division of the districts, he added, was "moody, and not based on scientific methods."

But, Mr. Abu Fares maintained that the election law should not be altered while the parliament is in recess, and if it is changed "we could say that the intention of the executive government is insincere."

Member of Parliament Hussein Mjalli argued the current law is fair because it took into consideration the geographical areas, which differ in interests, the level of development and social groupings.

These factors, he maintained, are more important than having districts of similar size populations.

During the discussion period, attendees questioned if the parliament is the appropriate authority to issue the election law, and will the stronger forces in parliament shape the law according to their own interests.

An attendee said the election law was in favour of the Islamists. "In Irbid," he maintained, "the Islamists received 10 per cent of the votes, but secured 50 per cent of the seats."

He added that this law is "unjust and came as a result of the government to 'change this policy of oppression and to instate a just law that is fair to all political parties and movements in this society.'"

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Suha Shoman at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Margaret Tadros at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Dr. Laila Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of sculptures by Syrian artist Akilam Abdul Hameed at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian Artist Youssef Abdelke at Al Balka's Gallery, Al Fuhais city.

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Huch and Margaret M. Huch at the American Centre.
- ★ Save the Children Designer Showcase: Exhibition of rugs, quilts, cushions, wallhangings, picture frames, lamp shades, leather handbags, canvas tote bags, natural olive oil soap, collector's dolls, food, embroidered fashionwear, baskets and seating; all manufactured by the Bani Hamida and the Jordan River Designs projects. The exhibition is at a new building next to the Business Bank, between Mukhabarat Bridge and the Prime Ministry 14th Circle, Queen Noor Street.

### FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "Wait Until Dark" at the American Centre at 5 p.m. (1967, 108 min.).

## The Italian Ambassador Graduated Italian Language Centre's Students



AMMAN — On the Italian national day H.E. the Italian Ambassador Dr. Romualdo Bertini graduated on Sunday the Italian Language Centre's students during a reception which was held at the Amman Marriott Hotel on the occasion of the Centre's second anniversary.

His Excellency thanked all the students and congratulated the President Mr. Samir Al-Corom for the unique cultural achievement and emphasised to enhance the centre's future programmes in Jordan.

His Excellency also made sure promises to offer more scholarships in different specialisations of distinguished students of the Italian Centre together with Jordanian universities.

The centre's president also confirmed in his speech that he will use all the possibilities for increasing the Centre's methods and developing

the scientific ways of teaching the Italian language. Certificates were later given to the Centre's graduates and gifts were offered to Mr. Scamolla, Manager of Alitalia in Jordan and to the Centre's first student Mrs. Abeer Odeh.

On this occasion the Italian Centre's President and Dott. SSA Graziella Maetucci also offered a memorial gift to his excellency.

The celebration was attended by a number of the Italian Embassy staff in the presence of the Italian Cultural Attaché Prof. Emanuele Minardo and many intellectual and economic interested individuals in Jordan. Mr. Abdul-Hamid Shoman/Arab Bank, Mr. Asaad Abdel Rahman/Shoman Foundation, Dr. Bassam Abu-Ghazaleh/President of Applied Sciences University, and a number of the Italian community in Jordan.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## Missing the forest because of a tree?

AS ENCOURAGING as the imminent return of old Palestinian expellees to the West Bank is, it must not serve to divert attention from the plight of the most recent Palestinian deportees and other grave human rights violations committed by Israel. Otherwise, there could be cause to believe that the latest "gesture" by the Israeli government is only a ploy to forget and bypass the four hundred Palestinians that Israel banished to South Lebanon last year. Of course we would like to see the early repatriation of all Palestinians who were arbitrarily forced out of their homeland throughout the past quarter of a century.

Some of the Palestinian personalities affected by the earlier Israeli deportation schemes are well-known Palestinian leaders who can be expected to play not only a leadership role in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but add a moderating influence as well. After the dispersion of many Palestinian leaders, there developed a leadership vacuum in the occupied Palestinian territories. The return of old and familiar faces to the scene could very well help support the peace process.

But all such worthy causes and objectives must not be at the expense of the newest batch of exiled Palestinians, on whose return there exists a specific United Nations Security Council resolution. Not attending to the needs and agonies of the Palestinians still stranded in no-man's-land may result in driving a deeper wedge between the Palestinians themselves, something that the peace process can ill-afford. The Palestinian constituency in support of the ongoing peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians needs to be further strengthened. There is plenty of room to win over new converts to peace and the best way to accomplish this goal is to facilitate the return of a wider spectrum of expelled Palestinians. Given the delicate period through which peace efforts are going, all efforts must be exerted to consolidate and unify Palestinian ranks in support of the search for a permanent and just settlement. The divide-and-rule policy is self-defeating in the long run and the sooner the Palestinian factions are united in their collective quest for a solution to their problem, the better.

If Israel is truly awaiting goodwill gestures or confidence-building measures, it must first dramatically improve its human rights record in the occupied territories. Part and parcel of this objective is to lift the state of siege against the West Bank and Gaza Strip. For how else can the people of Palestine be expected to support wholeheartedly the quest for peace.

Time is ripe to cultivate a more favourable climate between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and the first step in this direction lies in ameliorating the living conditions of the people under occupation in a meaningful way. No doubt in due course, the Palestinians would respond in-kind to any real Israeli confidence-building measures. Since, however, Israel is the party that occupied, and the oppressed the Palestinians it is only natural that the first step be taken by its government to ease the situation and make it possible to attain peace. Stopping short of other and bigger goodwill steps, the return of old Palestinian expellees will never be enough to generate the kind of Palestinian reaction that we all seek and need.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH the commencement of the ninth round of peace negotiations in Washington, the Arabs look forward to the attainment of genuine peace and hope that the Americans and the Israelis are now convinced of the necessity of peace, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said that by going to the peace talks in Washington the Arabs have proved once again to the whole world their real desire to reach a lasting settlement to the conflict that had plagued the Middle East for so long, said the paper. It is hoped that the U.S. and Israel are by now convinced that only a just and durable settlement based on justice and U.N. resolutions, can bring about the aspired peace, continued the daily. The paper recalled that His Majesty King Hussein has been demanding peace and justice for the peoples of this region. In his latest television interview, with the BBC television, King Hussein attached great hopes to the new round of negotiations as a means to end the tragedies and the ordeal of the Palestinian people and to launch a new era of peaceful coexistence among the nations of this area, said the paper. The paper stressed that any failure to attain peace was bound to open the door wide for further acts of violence and an indefinite extension to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

COMMENTING ON the ongoing rumours that the government plans to introduce new sales tax law, columnist Taber Al Udwan said that it is clear that the government is falling under pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to implement the economic restructuring programme in a bid to reform the national economy. It is true that the programme was helping the reform process, but it is unacceptable that the government should ignore the public demand that no such tax be imposed under the present circumstances in which the Jordanian people are facing heavy burdens, said the writer. Seldom do two people meet without touching on the subject of the sales tax, which would further increase burdens on the public, he said. It should be said that the government can, if necessary, introduce such a law according to the Constitution, but no such move seems to be urgent and necessary at the moment simply because the present government, which had earlier sent the draft law to Parliament, changed its mind about it later and withdrew the draft, the writer pointed out. He said that should the government go ahead with the move now, the main topic of the election campaign in November would focus on the economic situation and the burdens imposed on the public in compliance with the IMF instructions. The writer said that the government's ability to withstand the pressure should reflect the extent of the Jordanian people's endurance.

## Democracy alone can propel the Muslim World forward, give it legitimate power

By G.H. Jansen

An astonishing statistic to begin with: 80 to 85 per cent of all the world's refugees are Muslims. That is a U.N. figure and may be an underestimate.

That of all the world's major faiths — Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism — the adherents of Islam should be so very disproportionately forced into homelessness can only mean, in the main, one of two things: Islam is disproportionately objectionable to governments and people of other faiths and/or Muslims cannot be protected by the 50-odd Islamic countries grouped in the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which recently met in Karachi.

Which raises the question: Is the Muslim or Islamic "world" a paper tiger, fearsome to look at but without power or even influence?

The list of countries where Muslims are under attack, which often but not always results in their becoming refugees, is a long one: Bosnia, the Philippines (where the Moro people are up in arms), Burma (the Rohingyas of Arakan driven into Bangladesh), India (the refugee exodus after recent happenings in Bombay), Tajikistan (from where refugees from a communist regime are fleeing into Afghanistan), Azerbaijan (from Armenians), Abkhazia (from the Georgians) and, of course, the original post-war refugee problem, the Palestinian people displaced by the Zionist Israelis.

One probable reason why Muslims are picked-on is that, unlike the other major faiths, Islam is comparatively much younger and more dynamic and for that reason it can be seen as a potential threat. One manifestation of this dynamism is that there is within the Umma, the worldwide Muslim community, a strong feeling of interest and sympathy — to put it no higher — "brotherhood"

being too strong a word. Because this is felt by Muslims and is known by them to be there, manifested only verbally at such things as the OIC meetings, it leads to statements about the "Muslim World" or "Muslim brotherhood" which sound threatening to others, so threatening that it could lead to preemptive action against the "Muslim menace." This sort of action-reaction paradigm is especially clear in India.

"The main reason why these (Muslim) governments, despite their huge resources, human, physical and financial, are weak and ineffective is because they are not responsible regimes, because they are not representative, because they are not democratically elected. This is a paradox, because within Islam there is more egalitarian feeling than in perhaps any other faith."

But the sins of commission against Muslim communities, whether deserved or not, are possible only because of the sins of omission within the Umma on the part of Muslim governments. There are no less than 50 of them in the OIC, but neither collectively nor individually do they either deter the antagonists of the Muslims or provide effective help in times of trouble. The main reason why these governments, despite their huge resources, human, physical and financial, are weak and ineffective is because they are not responsible regimes, because they are not representative, because they are not democratically elected. This is a paradox, because within Islam there is more egalitarian feeling than in perhaps any other faith.

In the Muslim World, there is only a handful of countries that can be called fully independent, protected by the U.S. (the state by the U.S. armed forces and the rulers by the CIA) or are in need of U.S. financial assistance or in need of U.S. markets or technical assistance.

The OIC, for instance, was founded and is now led and financed by Saudi Arabia whose monarch calls himself "the protector of the Holy Shrines" (of Mecca and Medina) but that "leadership" ensures that the OIC has never given a real lead and certainly not on any issue that might be contrary to the interests or policies of the U.S.

Besides this lack of freedom and independence of action within the Islamic World, a lack mainly due to the absence of the will to be free and independent on the part of the regimes, one other source of weakness is the chronic divisiveness of the Muslim regimes. This is at its worst in the Arab

politically and economically, and these are small and marginal, like maverick Libya or Iraq or Iran and Jordan, still being punished for trying to be independent, and remote Yemen. But all the large, leading Muslim "powers" are less than independent, such as Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, Nigeria. These and the host of other Muslim states are in one way or other tied to the chariot wheels of the one world power, the U.S. They are either militarily pro-

region, the core of the Islamic World, which, in this respect, only too readily imitates the had example of the Arabs.

Here there is another paradox. Because at one level, the level of the Muslim people, there is the strong undertow, the centripetal tug of the Umma feeling, but above it, at the governmental level there are the centrifugal currents and cross-currents of the policies of the regimes. This contradiction provides the Muslim fundamentalists with one of their biggest opportunities because they appeal over the heads of the regimes to the Umma feeling of the people. And the active agents of that anti-regime impulse are the "terrorist" Afghans, the guerrillas left over from the campaign in Afghanistan who now want to go on waging "jihad" not just against Serbs or Croats or Armenians but also against Muslim governments as in Egypt or Algeria.

It is bitterly ironic that one of the items on the agenda of the Karachi conference was the fight against "terrorism," meaning the Muslim activists, such as the "Afghans." Ironic, but understandable and even inevitable, for the OIC is a gathering of governments.

The only way forward for the Muslim World is a fusion of the people with the regimes through democracy. That may be a long process but not necessarily a difficult one because the main obstacles are unpopular regimes kept in power only by force. And the swift collapse of the communist states has shown how vulnerable seemingly entrenched regimes can be when the popular mandate is withdrawn from them.

The writer is a Cyprus-based journalist specialising in Middle Eastern and Islamic affairs. He contributed the article to the Jordan Times.

## JNP — even-balanced or tilting east?

AMMAN — A charge that the Jordanian National Party (JNP) is a "conservative, tribal party of East Bankers" is strongly dismissed by the party's Secretary General Mijhim Khreisha. He insists that the JNP represents "national, pan-Arab and humane ideologies."

Mr. Khreisha says the charges "originated in the foreign press and were later picked up by Jordanian political analysts and journalists."

He maintains that the JNP, which was established in 1989 and was the first party to be licensed, is the "only party that contains Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Jordanians, Circassians and Chechens."

According to Al Urdun Al Jadid (New Jordan) Research Centre, however, there are few, if any, Jordanians of Palestinian origin in the list of the 167 founding members.

Professor of Political Science at the University of Jordan Abdullah Naqrash said Jordanians of Palestinian origin are present in small numbers in all Jordanian national parties because "these parties have priorities and agendas that are not necessarily consistent with those of the Palestinian community in Jordan." Although the political programmes of national parties accord due importance to the Palestinian question, these parties, Dr. Naqrash maintains, tend to be "regionalist" by nature and were formed as a reaction to the proliferation in Jordan of Palestinian, PLO, parties.

Al Urdun Al Jadid statistics show that 15 of the 167 founders are tribal leaders mainly from the Bani Sakher tribes, 15 are mayors, mostly in municipalities south of Amman, 13 retired army officers and seven are retired civil servants. There are 12 additional tribal leaders who the JNP has categorised by their profession. All in all, 72 founders, approximately 44 per cent of the total founding committee, play a leading role among tribal communities.

Hani Al Hourmai, who heads Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, said: "After studying the founding committee of the JNP, political analysts could describe it as 'a tribal, east of the bank party'."

He added that forming parties of tribal members is not always a negative feature as long as the party develops beyond tribal affiliations. Mr. Hourmai said this might happen with the JNP, especially since differences of opinion between the older and younger generations were evident in the JNP's first founding meeting, with the younger generation demanding more openness, democracy and modernisation.

Abdulla Naqrash, who would not talk about any one party in particular, said "Jordan is a tribal society and having parties com-

In this third of a series of articles on political parties Sausan Ghosheh introduces the creed of the Jordanian National Party, one based on national heritage and totally devoted to the protection of existing institutions.



Mijhim Khreisha: Will his party be the one to check the others?

posed primarily of tribal members does not classify the party as tribal."

However, Dr. Naqrash noted that in general national parties in Jordan "tend to depend on tribal figures."

Mr. Khreisha, a member of the Bani Sakher tribes, said: "When the party first started, it targeted the poorer sections of society. Thus, the founding committee came to include such a composition."

He explained that when the JNP first started, it had a tribal structure, "now the tribal factor has disappeared... we have a thousand members representing all levels of society with different origins and religious affiliations."

According to Al Urdun Al Jadid statistics, peasants and businessmen make up a significant part of the founding committee of the JNP. Professionals and workers, on the other hand, are not present in abundance among the founding committee members and women are not present at all.

Unlike other parties in Jordan, the JNP does not have a separate article dealing with women issues in its charter and political programme. Women are only mentioned in passing, using three words "protecting women's rights."

Asked to comment on that, Mr. Khreisha said the "JNP is a party for men and women." He said he perceived men and women as facing the same problems.

In addition, Mr. Khreisha says women now compose more than five per cent of the party and soon four women will become members of the higher executive committee.

The JNP's structure, the absence of women's issues in its political programme and its wholehearted belief in a free market are factors that "indicate that the JNP is a politically, economically and socially conservative party, and not a centrist party as it labels itself," Mr. Hourmai said.

According to Dr. Naqrash, a conservative party is a party that does not call for change. Jordanian national parties, he said, call for minor reforms and thus could be described as "reformist conservative" parties.

Mr. Khreisha, who started his career as an army officer, on the other hand describes the JNP as a centre national party. "We are leftist on some issues and conservative on others," he said. Mr. Khreisha, who also occupied influential positions in the Royal Court and the Prime Ministry,

said he believes this "flexibility" is in the interest of the country. "The ideology of the JNP is based on 'Jordanian heritage and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.' The goals of the party, according to Mr. Khreisha, are to protect Jordan's sovereignty and monarchy, to strengthen democracy, to support military and security forces and to build the "new Arab person."

Mr. Khreisha's long history of working in the public arena has led political analysts to describe him as being "raised in the regime's institutions."

Dr. Naqrash and Mr. Hourmai say that the role of national parties, in general, is to balance other political parties, on the left and on the right, in order to preserve the traditional institutions of the state under new forms. Dr. Naqrash went further to describe national parties in Jordan as "regime parties."

Mr. Khreisha agrees that one of the JNP's roles is to balance out other parties. "We will be a pressure factor on any party whose aims might contradict the Constitution, the National Charter and the political party law," he maintained. But, he said, "we are not a regime party, we are a constitutional party."

The Jordanian Constitution, the National Charter and the political party law all emphasise the legitimacy of the Monarchy and thus, Mr. Khreisha says, abiding by the Constitution means protecting the regime.

## Farewell Amman

By Dr. Hanna Nasser

IN A few days I will return, God willing, to Palestine after 18 years of expulsion. I have lived these long years among my beloved people. Every single day I felt Amman was my home. In Jordan I felt no difference between Jordanians and Palestinians; we are all one people in one trench. We share anxieties and pains; our objectives are linked and our families are mixed.

Yes, I will go back, God willing, to Palestine, to face occupation once again. I still remember the night of Nov. 21, 1974, when I was called to the Israeli military headquarters in Ramallah and was handcuffed by four soldiers. They covered my eyes and pushed me inside a jeep — where some other colleagues were crammed — and drove us to South Lebanon without any question or answer — not even a fallacious court session.

And now, I go back to Palestine. To my beloved town of Birzeit, to my parents and my friends, to Birzeit University that I left in the early days of its establishment. I go back to put a bouquet of flowers on my mother's tomb who passed away while I was abroad, denied the chance to honour her.

In 18 years, things have changed in Palestine. There is the blessed infatua, which exploded like a volcano of resistance in a manner that the occupation (forces) have not seen before. I go back to enjoy the fruits of this infatua.

I go back to see the destruction that took place in Palestine. The sanctified land has been sprinkled with illegitimate colonies. Settlements have been scarce until 1974 but spread like an epidemic all over the country afterwards.

I go back to see a suffocating siege on Arab Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a siege that partitioned Palestine and made a mess of the life of its people.

In spite of the tragedy the citizens in the occupied territories live, I am glad to back and share their pain and suffering. I will go back to be amongst them in good and bad times. Homelands are so precious — even if they are going through the worst of times.

In the middle of this overwhelming ecstasy of return, we have to remember the return of some of us is not a solution to the expellees problem; there



Hanna Nasser

are the expellees at the Marj Al Zuhour, and the hundreds of other expellees who are waiting for their return in compliance with United Nations Security Council's resolutions. Even if everybody returned, this is not a solution to the Palestinian problem.

The issue of Palestine is the issue of land and liberation. But every gain — even if it is small — is a step in the right direction. My return and the return of my colleagues can be considered as a victory over the expulsion principle that the occupation authorities adopted since 1967.

As for Amman, I will leave it with tears in my eyes, and I will miss it and miss every one I got acquainted with in the country: the neighbours who welcomed me and my family when I moved next to them, my colleagues at the Astronomical Society — this most beloved hobby to my heart, I will miss all the workers at the Birzeit University liaison office who worked with me with dedication and loyalty. At last, I will miss my friends and my companions at the PLO and my various departments, every one of them. We have worked together since deportation.

My hope is that time will not be long for us to meet all — deportees, displaced and refugees — in the land of liberated Palestine and where the Palestinian flag soars high.

The article is translated from Arabic. It appeared yesterday in Al Ra'i daily.

## Eritrea's independence follows 30-year war

ASMASA (R) — Eritrea, which confirmed its independence from Ethiopia Tuesday with a near-unanimous "yes" vote in a U.N.-monitored referendum, was for 30 years the battleground of Africa's longest civil war.

The former Italian colony, the size of England, is a narrow strip of lowland desert and rugged mountains stretching down the Red Sea coast from Sudan to Djibouti.

The world's newest state will formally come into existence on May 24 — second anniversary of the defeat of the Ethiopian army.

Its creation represents the first redrawing of Africa's boundaries of the post-colonial period, setting a precedent other breakthrough movements may try to follow.

An area of 124,320 sq km, independent Eritrea will contain 10 administrative provinces with nine ethnic groups and languages, although the dominant one is Tigritina.

The new government, drawn from the main guerrilla group that fought Ethiopia, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), faces an awesome task of reconstruction.

It estimates it needs \$2 billion in emergency recovery aid alone, but has so far only received \$28 million from western donors who say they have to wait for official independence before releasing funds.

Three decades of war have destroyed agriculture, wrecked the infrastructure of what was previously Ethiopia's industrial heartland, and created hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Up to two-thirds of the 3.5 million population are dependent on food aid for survival. Annual per capita income of \$115 is one of the lowest in the world.

On the plus side, the new country has no foreign debts and, since the end of the war, two years of good rainfall have resulted in the best harvests for more than a decade.

But the Eritrean and Rehabilitation Association says the country still faces a grain shortfall in 1993 of 180,000 tonnes.

EPLF leader Isayas Afewerki, a 46-year-old engineering graduate, has pledged the new state will have a multi-party constitution and free economy and hopes aid money will now flow in.

But doubts remain over the EPLF's commitment to tolerate opposition. Suspicions linger it has not fully shed the Marxist trappings of its early years.

Eritrea has been a zone of conflict between Christian Ethiopia and the Islamic Arab World for centuries.

Masawa, the main port serving Eritrea, was occupied by the Turkish Ottoman empire in the 16th century and Muslim Arab traders dominated the territory's coastline for the next 300 years.

In the 19th century, the highlands, which remained staunchly Christian, came more firmly under the control of the Ethiopian empire during a period of expansion and consolidation.

When European powers expanded into Africa, Italy occupied the southern part of Asah and by 1889 it had carved out the colony of Eritrea, establishing the present political boundaries for the territory, which Italy used as a base to invade Ethiopia in 1935.

The Italians built roads and railways and the provincial capital of Asmara, 2,000 metres above the sea.

They ruled Eritrea for just 52 years, but left behind an efficient administration, a new political identity, the Italian language and an appetite for pasta and espresso coffee among the local population.

Britain expelled the Italians from Eritrea and Ethiopia in World War II and administered Eritrea until the United Nations General Assembly decided in 1952 that it should be federated with Ethiopia.

Eritrea acquired its own legislative assembly and government, police force and tax system.

Emperor Haile Selassie, conscious that Asah and Masawa were Ethiopia's only sovereign outlets to the sea, purged the Eritrean parliament of all elements opposed to full integration with Ethiopia.

In 1962, he declared Eritrea an integral part of Ethiopia and the long war of liberation began.

The EPLF finally triumphed in May 1991 while Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam fled into exile and Ethiopian rebels captured the capital Addis Ababa.





# Weekender

April 29, 1993

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Published Every Thursday

## Toys for Arab children

**Mariam M. Shabbir**  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Culture and tradition have always been main themes of education and upbringing in the Arab World. One of the main instruments missing to teach children about their culture beyond the word of the Koran and a thousand and one nights has been toys. Educational toys.

Toys which build arches, building blocks which create arabesque designs, mosques and dolls which look like Arabs and not Scandinavians.

Puzzles which when complete draw a map of the Arab World or Arab landscapes and figures.

The brilliant toy-makers who have immortalised Western fairy tales, traditions and culture could not possibly have done the same for the Arab culture — but now an Arab designer has.

His name is Hassan Bakheit. He was born in Syria in 1956. His parents were Palestinian refugees from Jaffa. Nationless, they spent most of their life in the now destroyed Sabra refugee camp in Beirut. Today Mr. Bakheit has dual nationality, both Jordanian and British. His main clients are educated Saudi families and the expatriate Arab and Muslim communities of Western Europe and the Americas.

His production base is Kent. Alphabet flash cards, tee shirts, arabesque mugs, greeting cards with Arab and Islamic designs, jigsaw puzzles and of course his very



Some of Hassan Bakheit's creations

first toy-design — the Dome Of The Rock in the form of building blocks.

A thirty-three unit construction toy, the Dome Of The Rock building block toy won Mr. Bakheit his first prize as a toy designer some four years ago. From among 138 entries from 28 countries the Forum on Culture and Design in Ulm, Germany chose the Dome Of The Rock as the most original and

culturally distinct toy.

But the Ulm prize was not the first for Mr. Bakheit. In 1980 he won the first prize at a Royal Society of Art Competition for the design of medical equipment. His success led to the first scholarship given to a "non-resident" design student by the British Royal Society of Art.

Later on, a job designing

the Palestine Hospital in Cairo led to Mr. Bakheit's awareness of the need for culturally relevant toys for Arab children.

"I saw children in Egyptian kindergarten classes playing with the British toy policemen and Mickey Mouse. I knew these children would never see London or America and even if they did — there was no toy which related in any way or form to

their culture," said Mr. Bakheit during a stop-over in Amman from Britain.

His art design studies at the Chelsea School of Art gave him the background in the refined aspects of design which he did not learn in Lebanon when studying industrial design.

Several attempts by Mr. Bakheit to produce his educational material in the Middle or Far East have thus far failed. But the market for his goods continues to grow especially in the West.

Oxford, the British charity organisation bought over a 1,000 units of his Islamic designs and has placed an order for more. "I don't sell quantity. I sell quality. If I had a greater market the prices would go down," says Mr. Bakheit of his toys which sell at an average of JD 8 a unit.

He hopes to collaborate with Arab partners and build a toy factory somewhere in the Arab World. Until then, Mr. Bakheit is planning to continue marketing his toys in the Arab World as well as abroad.

"The largest market for Arab toys is still in Europe and America. Maybe someday they will also sell here," he says.

Mr. Bakheit was the senior Arab advisor to the designers of the Saudi Arabian pavilion at the Seville Expo, although his Saudi clientele reduced their orders for his toys significantly during and after the Gulf war because of Mr. Bakheit's Jordanian/Palestinian heritage.

"Relations and understanding between the Arabs will pick up again," he says. "But it will take time."

As designer and producer, Mr. Bakheit is always busy travelling as well as designing. His products have just been introduced to the Jordanian market and he hopes to make Jordan his Middle Eastern base someday. "I would love to see Arab kids play with toys that make them proud to be Arabs," he says.

## U.S. researcher points out parliament need for staff, facilities

**By Sausan Ghosh**  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Performance of Jordan's 11th Parliament has been approved by more than two-thirds of the Jordanian electorate, according to an opinion poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan in January. But individual deputies did not do so well, obtaining on average a 27 per cent approval rating, according to the same survey.

It might well be due to several reasons, some no doubt political, that this discrepancy exists between the overall parliament performance and the individual performance. But, could it also be due to lack of resources and facilities extended to individual deputies and/or to

not using the available facilities to their full extent?

A recent visit by an American researcher at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in Washington D.C. has highlighted just how inadequate our Parliamentary facilities are.

Clyde Mark, who is a Middle East specialist for the CRS, probably has no counterpart in the Jordanian Parliament. No wonder that this is the case, in fact, since the U.S. Congress, while being a much older institution than our parliament, also employs 600 researchers and 200 support staff; ours employs three researchers.

Mr. Mark said his institutions' role "is to make it easier for the congress to do its job."

The CRS, established after

World War I, answers the questions of the U.S. Senators and House of Representatives members, and carries out research and analysis on all the topics discussed in Congress.

In addition, to employing a large team of staff researchers, a high percentage of whom have masters and doctorate degrees in the various fields of economics, natural resources, foreign affairs and national defence, the CRS has immense resources and facilities.

By contrast the Research and Study Centre (RSC) at the Jordanian Parliament, set up for the same purpose, is only capable of providing information and lacks the means to execute research and analysis, said Mustafa

Odwan, director of the RSC. The RSC, founded in 1992, employs three full-time staff, who are neither trained researchers, nor specialised in any discipline, according to Mr. Odwan.

"The congress is always in a hurry ... what needs a month's research, they want it in one day," Mr. Mark said.

The RSC, on the other hand, lacks all the facilities needed for any efficient research centre, no matter how small; the RSC has no information department and not a single computer, Mr. Odwan said.

Thus, the RSC spends at least one month to gather information on one topic, he explained.

The value of the CRS, according to Mr. Mark, lies

in its objectivity. "Rule number one at the CRS is objectivity ... researchers do not take sides ... we present all sides and try to be balanced," he maintained.

Even though each congressman has his/her own staff and offices, they perceive the CRS as "necessary" because they believe it provides non-partisan research, Mr. Mark said.

Members of the Jordanian Parliament, however, do not appear to trust the RSC; "they do not believe it is objective, because it is part of the General Secretariat of the Parliament," Mr. Odwan explained.

Thus, he added since the establishment of the RSC, it has only been approached by one parliamentarian and one committee to perform studies

on two topics, the garbage situation and civil service employment.

The authorities, according to Mr. Odwan, do not understand the value of a parliamentary research centre.

He explained that the members of parliament have other sources of research, which they see as more reliable.

In order to improve, Mr. Odwan said, the RSC needs to be "administratively and economically independent." The government, and not the General Secretariat of the parliament, should fund the RSC, he added.

These changes can only happen if they are "adopted by more than one influential force" in the political process, Mr. Odwan maintained.

## Men of the sword

**The autobiography: It Doesn't Take A Hero**  
By Norman Schwarzkopf (with P. Petre)  
Bantam Press, London 1992, £17.99

**Storm Command: A Personal Account Of The Gulf War**  
By Peter De La Billiere  
Harper Collins, London 1992, £18

After the war come the autobiographies of the victors: almost as if it were a prerogative of victory. Certainly the two personalities revealed here had no doubt whatsoever of the justice of their cause or of the outcome. General De La Billiere writes of his amazement that the Iraqi army should have passively awaited the onslaught planned for it and of his fear for the future had Iraq withdrawn before mid-January 1991. General Schwarzkopf, too, underlines the fears within the U.S. command structure and amongst the politicians of the "nightmare scenario" becoming fact.

At the same time, however, apart from the minutiae of the military arena — which are, at times, quite fascinating — neither book adds significantly to what we already know of the background and run-up to the conflict in the Gulf in 1991, or to the way in which it evolved. Neither commander shows very much interest in the motives or the nature of their adversary, nor does either show much concern over what happened to Iraqis during and after the conflict, except to blame the Iraqi president himself for what happened.

Both commanders also express their own, often very different, resentments of civilian attitudes in Europe and the U.S. General De La Billiere is continuously exasperated by the timidity and cheese-paring attitude of government, although he is unstinting in his praise of Tom King as defence secretary; General Schwarzkopf was irritated by

the unwillingness of Congress to support President George Bush before the war and of the media's distaste for the brutality of ground warfare and particularly for the devastation wrought on Highway Six out of Kuwait City.

However, what is striking in both the U.S. and British command structures was the military's acceptance and compliance with civilian political direction. Schwarzkopf, for example, agreed with the White House that the war should have ended when it did, despite the fact that the regime has continued in power. De La Billiere, for his part, saw one of the main duties to be to minimise the duration of the British presence in the Middle East, mainly because of budgetary and manpower constraints.

Both commanders were similar in another respect too: Both had had considerable experience of the Middle East before. De La Billiere had served in Suez, Oman, Aden and Sudan over an eight-year period when a junior officer and spoke colloquial Arabic. Schwarzkopf, who had not had professional experience of the region, at least until he attained senior rank, had spent several years in Iran when young, where his father was training the Shah's police. While these experiences may have made both commanders more acceptable to their governmental and military counterparts amongst their Middle Eastern allies, they did not, ironically enough, seem to make them any more sensitive about the wider implications of the enterprise they were engaged in.

So, if neither autobiography is particularly illuminating over the background and implications of the war against Iraq, do they have any other intrinsic interest for the general reader? Indeed, they do, although here the balance is tipped heavily in favour of Schwarzkopf. The reason is quite simple: De La Billiere has confined himself strictly to his subject and we learn little of the man and the environment that produced him. Schwarzkopf, on the other hand, has written a full biography. Fully half his book

## BOOK REVIEW

is devoted to events before the Gulf War and, although it is an account of his personal experiences from boyhood on, it is also a detailed account of how an American patriot is formed.

There is no doubt that the general is a highly intelligent man. There is equally little doubt, however, that he was always primarily concerned with action, not with contemplation. Furthermore, he came from an intensely patriotic military household, in which the American vision was never questioned, and his sole ambition seems to have been to follow in his father's footsteps to West Point.

Yet, when he entered the service as a professional, just after the end of the Korean War, he found himself in an ill-equipped and poorly motivated army, in which his commitment seemed to have little place. His salvation and, ironically enough, the final destruction of his illusions, came with Vietnam, where he was an early volunteer and where his dynamism and leadership singled him out as an outstanding soldier. His promotions thereafter seem to have been effortless, but, had it not been for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, his opportunity for a senior command in battle would never have come about. Yet that was to prove to be the culmination of a military career which, in retrospect, seems to have been unconsciously designed for that very end.

It is therefore as a description of the personal evolution of the psychology of military command that Norman Schwarzkopf's autobiography reveals its intrinsic interest. And, indeed, the same is true, within a deliberately much more restricted timescale, of Peter De La Billiere's book. If, however, you are looking for insights as to why the war against Iraq was fought or what was meant to happen afterwards or why, indeed, it ever had to occur, you will not find them here — Middle East International.

George Joffe

## Diary

In Jordan's democratic atmosphere, the number of newspapers is continuously growing. Weeklies, tabloids in particular, are springing up like weeds on the banks of a river. In this week's Diary, we select news and views that recently appeared in those tabloids just to show how well, or badly, openness and democracy are working. Diary-style comment on these items is withheld, however, except in extreme cases and where factual errors have to be corrected. Enjoy, above all, the humour in what you are about to read.

AKHBAR AL USBOU WEEKLY allowed former president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) Rakan Al Majali, who has been levelling ferocious and personal criticism at present and former members of government since he was fired from his last job as editor-in-chief of Al Ra'i Arabic daily in 1989, to turn his guns on hitherto forbidden territory. Writing his back page column in this week's issue, Majali charged that the Royal Court, under its current chief whom he did not identify by name, has become as ineffective as government itself. "In the past," Majali wrote, "the august Royal Court was a major institution of state that was not prescribed as such in the constitution or the law. It was, as King Hussein always said, the house of all Jordanians and Arabs, the institution that creates balance in the country and represents a refuge for all ordinary citizens. He added: "(the Royal Court) was the last resort for patriotic citizens through which they conveyed their opinions to the leader and it was (the institution) that consolidated the concept embodying Jordan as one loving family despite all symbols of selfishness, hatred and deviation." Majali went on to say: "There was many a time in Jordan's history when government's performance was inefficient and tyrannical. But every time the government in office was absent the Royal Court filled the vacuum." Now, however, "the situation has dramatically changed," he opined. "I don't believe that in its history Jordan has ever witnessed a period like that of today when both the government and the Royal Court are absent," said Majali, who has been out of a job in the mainstream press since the government of Mudar Badran reversed the decision of former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and brought back to Jordanian dailies the editors that Mr. Rifai had earlier replaced under martial law. "Some do not distinguish anymore between the Royal Decree (Court) and Decree (book) of poetry," Majali continued in an obvious reference to the Royal Court chief, who was a professor of Arabic literature before becoming minister of culture in Mr. Badran's government in 1989 and went on to become chief of the Royal Court in 1992. "There is a difference between the Mutanabbis (the famous Arab poet) who created a spirit for the nation and those who just know his poetry," Majali went on to say in his unprecedented and blistering attack. "The difference is that between the overflow of the spirit of glory and parrots which memorise but have no talent, no experience and do not reflect the dignity of the word and its honour." There is a lot to say in this regard, Majali continued. "But we have to remember one thing," he concluded: "Relief (from this situation) will come from the fact that our people continue to believe in their leader who has led them through all phases to the shores of love and security with his vivid far-sightedness and divine light that guides his way. The King is capable of creating a new dawn with the birth of every day in which the sun is born."

AL MUSTAQBAL WEEKLY, the mouthpiece of the centrist party Al Mustaqbal, claimed in a report in its latest issue that Al Ra'i daily will have a new chief editor within two weeks. Quoting unidentified sources (a common practice among the newcomers to Jordan's press), Al Mustaqbal said that the board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation, which owns both Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, on Saturday discussed the resignation of Mahmoud Al Kayed who, again according to unidentified sources, will hold a cabinet position in the next government. Al Mustaqbal said Kayed asked the board to give him two weeks before it named his successor. The report named Jordan Press Association President Suleiman Al Qudha (now Al Ra'i's managing editor), former editor of Al Dustour Suleiman Al Tarawneh and another Al Ra'i editor, Ahmad Salameh, as strong candidates for Kayed's post. Because there is a factual error that has to be corrected, the Diary feels obligated to say that the board did not discuss the resignation of Kayed in its meeting Saturday. While it may well be true that Kayed has to act according to the new press and publications law, which comes into effect on May 17, and resign either as chairman of the board or as editor of Al Ra'i, it is also a fact of life that he had just fired Al Mustaqbal editor Abdul Rahman Al Abboushi from his job as a reporter at Al Ra'i because he had decided that Abboushi also could not combine his two jobs for Al Ra'i and Al Mustaqbal.

AL MUSTAQBAL, also in this week's issue, permitted Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant to defend himself against "rumours" flying around town about him. The paper quoted rumours that the Islamist deputy, who captured people's attention as a fiery speaker in the 1989 elections, has fallen out of grace with Yasser Arafat for severely criticising the peace process and thus lost a JD 40,000 annual grant that, according to the rumours, he annually received from the PLO chairman. In a statement he made to the weekly, Sheikh Abu Zant denied that he had ever received such financial support from the PLO though he used the chance to reaffirm his rejection of the peace talks. "I don't know Arafat personally," he was quoted as saying. "I met him only once at an official meeting in Amman and during that encounter I advised him to worship God and to be wary of the Americans and the Jews who had been cooking up things for him. I told him not to believe the combined Jewish-American lie." How "could I tell him these things if I were receiving money from him?" the sheikh went on to ask. Abu Zant cited what he called his "humble house and furniture" as evidence that he receives support only from God. "I am a man who is ridden with debt," he continued. "So how could that be the case if I am receiving thousands of dinars from Arafat and others?"

SHIHAN, the weekly tabloid with the largest circulation in the country, this week quoted deputy Ahmad Oweidi Al Abbadi (Independent, 5th District) as saying that he might sue the Traffic Department for harassing him in an attempt to tarnish his reputation. Shihan said that Abbadi sent a "strongly worded" complaint to the prime minister and the director general of the Public Security Department about the treatment he had received at the hands of a police officer in his constituency, Bayader Wadi Al Seir. In the complaint, Shihan said, Abbadi offered the following account of the incident: A traffic policeman who recognised the deputy threatened to take him to the police station for violating traffic regulations by driving in the wrong lane. Politics, Abbadi told Shihan, were behind the episode. "I accuse political and electoral circles of perpetrating this act to tarnish my reputation in my own constituency. I consider this an attempt to settle old and future political and electoral scores."



## Easy as 1-2-3?

By Jean-Claude Elias

How many car drivers can claim to really understand what's in an engine or are able to fix it when it needs repair or maintenance? A very small minority certainly. This doesn't prevent the majority, the non-experts in automotive mechanics, to actually drive their car, make good use of it and even enjoy driving. When their vehicle is down however, they would rather contact the car workshop for repair.

A computer, like a car, is just another machine. One can use, for example, a word processing programme, without having to be an information technology expert. The problems appear when a lay person, facing a given technical difficulty with his or her PC (personal computer) decides to do without professional help.

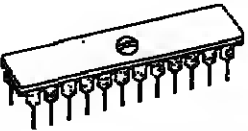
True, like in any field, not all lay people are equal. There are absolute beginners, amateurs, good amateurs, professional-amateurs, etc... But unless someone is fully professional, chances are that there will always be problems that take a real specialist to solve, someone who works everyday on computers. Illegal practice of medicine is punished by law. There should be laws forbidding amateurs from tampering with computers.

Users tend to believe that because a PC is small, relatively inexpensive and won't explode (for the picky, a monitor's tube could implode but not explode), there is no harm in trying to do the repair by themselves. Let's be clear: A computer can be out of order because of a hardware failure like the keyboard, disk, monitor, power, ... or a software failure like programmes and data erasure, corruption and so on. They are two distinct matters, though sometimes linked.

Most people will call the computer company for a hardware failure — electricity generally scares the amateurs — but will try anything they can think of to arrange a data-software problem. Unless the problem is minor, easy to solve and well explained in user's manuals, one had better refer to a trained specialist. Reputable computer distributors have software support people like they have hardware engineers.

The main risk in non-professional attempts to solve

## chip talk



difficult software situations in mainly accidental deletion of important data or files from the disk. The other risk is to "freeze" the PC and render it completely out of order till the specialist arrives. A common mistake PC users do when trying to play the "computer doctor" is deleting or renaming a file named "COMMAND.COM" from the root directory of the hard disk. Without this file the PC can't even start to work. At best, the user would waste a lot of precious time instead of calling the qualified people first. Needless to say that the software specialists' work would be much simpler and easier if the user would call him before his or her repair attempts.

Some users should shelve their obsessive desire for being professionals and realise that being an amateur PC operator is not a shame at all. After all, to each his own profession. Knowing a PC in depth and being able to tackle all of the problems that can arise from using it is a difficult and a fulltime job. Software is becoming more and more complex and even experts have hard times keeping up with new developments.

Computer graduates study long and hard, like in any other technical field, to become what they are. All the training courses, the "summer camps" and even raw intelligence in the world won't replace sound academic studies and a master's experience. They will, at best, increase the users' computer awareness. Civil engineers, architects, lawyers and doctors have well established standards in their trades and no one tries to be an amateur doctor or architect. Shouldn't it be the same for information technology?

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 29

8:30 Coach

9:10 Quantum Leap

Sam leaps into time again to find himself in the year 1972 as an English literature teacher in a girls' school.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film "Drive Like Lightning"

Starring: Steven Baur and Cynthia Gibb

A young man, Charlie Webster, is assigned to deliver a stunt car to a speedway in Los Angeles for the famous stunt driver Boll Donner. The Webster family has a long history in the stunt driving trade, but Charlie has all but given up his dreams of that life. The dreams were shattered when his older brother, Billy, was crippled due to a flaw in a stunt that Charlie designed.

On the road, Charlie picks up a young hitchhiker, Ginger, who is headed for Los Angeles with hopes of making it as a singer. Along the way, events conspire to prevent them from getting through with the truck and their only alternative is to drive Boll's prize car, "The Devil". Stunt after stunt occurs on the road as they are pursued by the police and Donner's henchmen for "stealing" Boll's prize possession.

Throughout the chaos, Charlie's and Ginger's relationship blooms. Despite

Ginger's doubts about herself and her relationship with Charlie, she finally decides to stick with him on the ride of his life and the final test to prove who really is the greatest stunt car driver.

Friday, April 20

8:30 Alf

Standing In the Shadow

Alf helps Jack in writing love letters to his girlfriend Laura.

9:10 E.N.G.

Suffer The Little Children

A series of suicide attempts take place in the old neighbourhood that Jake used to live in.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wagner

Starring: Richard Burton — Vanessa Redgrave.

Wagner starts dreaming of returning to Germany.

Saturday, May 1

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Perspective

A local talk show presented by Mureed Hamad.

9:30 Saturday Variety Show

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Crazy From The Heart

Starring: Christine Lahti and William Russ.

The story of a high school principal (Charlotte) who falls in love with a Mexican janitor at her school.

Sunday, May 2

8:30 Executive Stress

Robin turns out to be the sort of new writer Caroline is looking for. One of Robin's other talents however is making trouble, which he does in a big way.

9:10 The Good Guys.

Old School Ties

Morning in the flat, and MacFadyen's girlfriend, Lizzie, and Lofthouse meet in the kitchen. Both are a little awkward. While the two lovers exchange badinage in the bedroom, Lofthouse fumes over a shocking newspaper picture of a badly mugged woman.

Nearby, at a house called Larchwood, Graham Croxley and his wife Valerie are going away for the night, leaving their 17-year-old son Stephen to study for his A levels. Barely have they left than a gang of school friends, led by Dominic, arrive on motorbikes and start taking drugs and messing about by the indoor swimming pool. At first Stephen protests he has work to do, but a desire to keep up with his friends combined with a contempt for his bullying father persuade him

to throw caution to the winds and join in. Sam, the Asian help, looks on helplessly.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Voltaire

Voltaire goes to live in Geneva. But he is continuously mistreated there...

Monday, May 3

8:30 The Powers That Be

Bradley Gets Fired

The senator decides to fire Bradley because of his affair

9:10 Petra

The Red Silence

The programme focuses on the Red City of Petra and its history.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Street Justice

Friendly Fire

A policeman shoot an unarmed man and kills him, the man's mother tries to get revenge.

Tuesday, May 4

8:30 Beadies About

9:10 Forever Green

Jack and Harriett are offered a partnership in a lumber company with old friends Mike and Mary. But Jack and Harriett decide against it.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Wednesday, May 5

8:30 Chance In A Million

Winning Streak

9:00 Spotlight

9:30 Voyager

10:00 News In English

10:20 Mini-Series

The Gravy Train Goes East

A coup takes place in an East European country and the new leaders decide to join the European Community.

## The hunter and the bone

By E. Yaghi

It was obvious that the old timer hunted, but just what, was never quite clear, not even to himself. He had sought a variety of entities in his life. When young, he looked for adventure and wisdom; as he grew older, he explored the legend of the fountain of perpetual youth and the city of gold. He excavated archaeological sites and even searched for the mysteries of life entombed in the ancient pharaoh's pyramids in Egypt. He had come across a few bits and pieces of gold but never anything enough to make him rich. And though he had been a part of exciting discoveries of antique civilisations, his meager reward never surpassed his accumulation of knowledge and experience.

And so here he was, brought by fate at the end of his years to a rocky canyon devoid of any evident human habitation, a place where crags, crevices and holes had been carved and shaped by the winds of time. It was early evening and the old hunter stretched out on the ground propping his back against a large rock while he watched his campfire roast a wild rabbit he had earlier caught.

The meat smelled good over the open fire and he was hungry. He rose, went over to his camping gear, took out an enamel teapot, filled it with water from a nearby brook and placed it on the outer embers of the dying fire. "Nothing like some tea with a good meal," the old man said to the canyon walls. "Just seems to hit the spot." He yawned and reached out with his arms into the endless space to ease the cramp in his muscles. "It's been a long way so after supper I guess I'll try to get some sleep. Tomorrow's another day and I'll worry about it when it comes."

After his simple meal, the hunter slowly drank his tea which he savoured as though it were the finest beverage he had ever tasted and then following a long silence, dozed out the fire with some water and went to unroll his sleeping bag. He spread it on a clearing and with his jacket for a pillow, lay down to sleep. In a distance he could hear a coyote yelp, some pigeons coo and an owl hoot. He smelled the ashes of his campfire blend with the dryness of the arid air to mix with a scent of pine. The night seemed unusually black when he stared up at the forboding sky. Only a few stars peered down at him from their guard of the celestial realm. All at once, the silence of the canyon surrounded him and almost crushed him. He wanted to scream to pierce the morbid stillness that threatened to crawl down his throat and suffocate him. He began to hum an old miner's tune in mock bravery and in his temporary solace said at last, "I have to get some sleep or else I'll have no strength left for a long tomorrow."

He dozed off into a fitful slumber interrupted at frequent intervals by bouts of wakening. When he did sleep, he dreamed of ghosts and monsters and of falling into a deep

eternal pit filled with a blazing inferno. And was that the satanic laughter of shrieking fiendish spirits who stoked the furnace of hell? Frequently he awoke crying out, "No, don't take me! Leave me alone!"

Beads of sweat ran off his forehead and soaked his jacket-pillow. He tossed and turned until finally he smelled the break of dawn. He opened his eyes. The air was cool and sweet. Small birds cheeped for food and dew clung like the dainty ornaments on the desert poppies and thistles. The dainty ornaments of the eve before seemed remote now and not so vivid. It was all just a figment of his imagination. "It's a hard thing for one to be alone. Solitude gets on a man's nerves. It is indeed unfortunate that I have no children to bear by name and none will cry for me when I die. What have I accomplished during my lifetime? I've searched high and low for so many things but never really found myself. Who am I? Where have I been and where am I going?"

There was no answer but the sound and smell of nature, his sole companion. He got up and headed for the brook, bent down on his knees and washed his face and hair in the cool crystal water still unpolluted by man. Feeling refreshed, he patted his face dry with a threadbare towel and set about gathering some dry wood to make his breakfast fire. As he scrounged about, he saw something white gleam in the early sunlight.

"What's this?" he asked himself as he scooped the earth with a piece of wood to uncover the object that had attracted his interest. "Why, it's a bone of a human and there is a tuft of yellow hair wrapped around it!" he exclaimed amazed.

The lock of dry hair was jagged and wire-like from the countless eons of ages that it had been buried in the ground. The old-timer held the bone closer for inspection. "How long have you been hidden here beneath the earth, unknown to humanity?" he questioned. "What is your secret and did your owner pass away alone uncelebrated in life as in death?"

The piece of past humanity crumbled slightly in his hand and the gnarled warped ancient golden wires scratched him forcing him to yell to the thing, "Tell me the horrors of your secrets!"

But the bone, still crumbling, remained silent and the only answer was that of the careless unconcerned canyon winds which blew against him.

Terrified, the old timer watched as the yellow tuft of hair twisted itself around his own knotted hand. He could not free himself from the haunted bone and he roared out in despair and terror: "Leave me alone! Get away from me! Let go!"

But the bone said nothing and continued to wrap itself snake-like around the hunter's appendage and then suddenly he knew. He knew it all. The bone he was handcuffed to was none other than his own.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### HUMOROUS QUOTATIONS

Trouble

MISFORTUNES and twins never come singly.

MISFORTUNES come on wings and depart on foot.

IN trouble to be troubled is to have your trouble doubled.

BORROW trouble for yourself, if that's your nature, but don't lend it to your neighbours.

WHEN a man confronts catastrophe on the road, he looks in his purse — but a woman looks in her mirror.

WHEN you see a man in woe, Walk right up and say "hullo". Say "hullo" and "how d'ye do?" "How's the world a usin' you?"

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Well done.  
— Congratulations!  
— Come hell or high water.  
— Cheers!  
— Thank heaven!  
— I'm just worried.  
— Do you mind?  
— I suppose so.  
— It's a pity.  
— It doesn't matter.  
— It's up to you.  
— Take it easy.  
— Are you sure?  
— Bless me!  
— Poor fellow.  
— All right.

Absant.  
Tahaneena!  
Mahma kanat el-zuroof.  
Fee sh'hitak.  
Shukr li'lah.  
Ana kal'kan.  
Indak mani?  
Atakid zalek.  
Ya li-khasara.  
Moosh mohim.  
El-amr matrook-lak.  
Hawwin alalik.  
Lata muta'akkid?  
Rahmitak ya Rubbi!  
Miskeen.  
Wah'wa kazalek.

### STRANGE BUT TRUE

THE WORD television means "to see at a distance." SEVENTY-TWO muscles are used in speaking one word.

SILK was discovered 2700 B.C. IN 1870, it took eight days to cross the United States by train.

THE ESTIMATED weight of the Great Pyramid of Egypt is 6,648,000 tonnes.

CAMPANOLOGY is the art or science of ringing bells. OSTRICHES do not bury their heads in the sand as many suppose.

### TIME FOR FUN:

Shakespearean nightmare

The Merchant of Venice with Two Gentlemen Of Verona celebrated Twelfth Night with The Merry Wives Of Windsor.

Despite The Tempest which was raging, the feasting began with the guests drinking Measure For Measure until some were as Titus Andronicus.

What made it all seem like a Midsummer Night's Dream was the entry of Romeo And Juliet who demonstrated Love's Labours Lost, and the arrival of Antony And Cleopatra who gave a vivid portrayal of The Taming Of

The Shrew.

When the kings Henry, Richard and John turned up the feasting and merrymaking was renewed.

This Winter's Tale might have had an unhappy ending with something akin to The Rape Of Lucrece but for the timely intervention of King Lear who had entered unnoticed and had been doing a spot of "leering" without much success. He summed up the situation by saying, "You have enjoyed yourselves As You Like It, any regrets must be treated as The Comedy Of Errors, so do not make Much Ado About Nothing and then All's Well That Ends Well."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

"Yes," one man said to another. "I've read so much about smoking causing various illnesses that I've decided to give up reading!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Two flies were playing football in a saucer. Said one: "We shall have to do better than this next week, we are playing in the cup!"

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Who are onomasticians?
2. Who said, "I am wretched, and know not why"?
3. What is a Murphy bed?
4. What is neurasthenia?
5. Do scallops swim?
6. What does the "high" in the phrase "high seas" stand for?
7. What was the name of Bill Sikes's dog in Oliver Twist?
8. What are the people who live in Brittany called?

### HAPPY DREAMS

COCOA: You can rely on the integrity of your friends if you dreamt of drinking or serving cocoa.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TEA: Whether it was iced or hot, drinking tea in your dream indicates an increase in social popularity. If you poured it from the pot, it predicts a happy surprise.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

COFFEE: The meaning here depends greatly on the details and the action. If you drank the coffee and it was good, it augurs surprising good news; if it was bitter, you will have cause to break off a friendship. If you ground the coffee, it is a favourable omen signifying unusual domestic happiness; but if you spilled coffee in your dream, you must expect a series of small disappointments.

### PUZZLES

Can you discover the next TWO numbers in the series in each case?

- (1) 1, 3, 7, 15, —, —
- (2) 2, 12, 36, 80, 150, —, —
- (3) 6, 24, 60, 120, 210, —, —
- (4) 18, 22, 22, 20, 26, —, —
- (5) 15, 40, 145, 756, 5089, —, —



De Fort Boyard, a games show, broadcast every Sunday at 8 on JTV Channel 2







## Therapeutic fashion — anti-stress fabrics

By Marie Danguy

**The world of fashion always causes astonishment, but, this year, the surprise does not come from the ever more futuristic designs but from the use of new fabrics which hold some fine surprises. The French fashion designer Azzedine Alaïa was the first to use these new textiles in his anti-stress collection.**

PARIS — Here is a riddle: What can now replace the pharmacist, the physiotherapist and the doctor?

The answer is: New textiles.

The happiness material has now been invented. It is called "relax" or the "bread of serenity" as it has been named by its Italian inventor the textile manufacturer Linea Piu.

This anti-stress thread is a

real pharmacopoeia. It eliminates tension, headaches, articulatory pains, nausea and loss of appetite, ailments which are today often called the "ills of city life".

What is more, it is pretty and soft.

The fashion designer, Azzedine Alaïa has been won over by it and made leggings, cat-suits, body-suits and dresses out of it. It is enough to put on these clothes made of

the golden fleece and to wait for the beneficial effects on the health of the "patients".

The secret of relax lies in a tiny carbon fibre which protects the wearer from the invisible electro-magnetic waves considered as one of the major forms of pollution in our time and responsible for the "ills of city life" mentioned above.

This business venture has a firm scientific and medical basis.

For years, it has been known that the environment in which we live is saturated with electro-magnetic radiation of various frequencies and intensity which is emitted by electric and electronic appliances when in operation.

These include long-distance radio-communication aerials, radar, high-voltage cables, television screens, microwave ovens, machines for various industrial purposes as well as sources of electro-magnetic

fields (known as non-ionising radiations).

### Killer fabrics

In 1977, in the United States, public opinion was alarmed at the harmful effects of these waves on the human organism. Since then, the scientific world has become interested in this phenomenon and all the more so as a report by the World Health Organisation recommended that measures be taken as quickly as possible, given that the levels of electro-magnetic radiation in the environment were 10<sup>14</sup> higher than the amount occurring naturally. It is hard to imagine such a high figure.

It was thus becoming necessary to deal with the problem and to fight this invisible but dreadful pollution. The idea for an anti-stress thread was thus invented in this context.

The idea was simple but it

was difficult to apply. This revolutionary process was developed by the Linea Piu textile firm, near Florence.

"We were impressed by the properties of carbon for a long time," the chairman of the company explained. "At NASA, for instance, it is used to cover the walls and the floors in order to reduce the effects of this pollution which affects the measuring instruments".

In order to create their textile, the Linea Piu company collaborated with the French chemicals firm BASF to find a way of coating very thin nylon thread (barely 55 microns thick (55 thousandths of a millimetre)) with carbonium. The result is a very strong and light fibre. One kilogramme of thread is 390 kilometres long!

Tests demonstrated that 6 per cent of carbonium thread was enough to protect man. This low percentage makes it

possible to maintain an acceptable price as this fabric is 30 per cent more expensive than other textiles. So it is blended with 94 per cent other fabrics such as wool, cotton or viscose.

This anti-stress textile has been tested by Italian research laboratories and has been approved by the Italian Public Health laboratories.

This example of anti-stress thread shows that the future of textiles lies in blending fibres. New molecules blended into materials can thus give them specially chosen properties. Textiles which kill bacteria, thermochromic fabrics which store energy and materials which distill perfume are also starting to appear. This little revolution is the dazzling proof that the concept of fashion now includes that of environment, life in society and health — L'Actualité En France.



Carbon-based anti-stress fashion is the latest surprise this year

## New age circus makes magic in New York

By Anthony S. Vanger

NEW YORK — Under the shadow of the World Trade Centre's twin towers and silhouetted against the Statue of Liberty, a blue and yellow big top rises above the asphalt of Battery Park, with its unmistakable flag flying in the chilly spring wind — yes, Le Cirque Du Soleil is back in town with a brand new show called "Saltimbanco".

The circus, created in 1982, is a multinational, mobile village of about 110 people. The predominant language is

French, or French-Canadian. At about 5 p.m., three hours before show time, community members sit around tables in the restaurant located at the heart of the Cirque Du Soleil complex. They drink espresso, relax and read newspapers in various languages. Some of the customers have red noses and painted faces. Others discuss their acts, accentuating their thoughts with wild dramatic gestures. There is a lot of laughter.

Named for and inspired by the 16th century Italian street

performers, "Saltimbanco" is a nod to Cirque Du Soleil's origins as a group of street performers in Quebec, Canada. It features a cast of 40 artists from around the world, including Cambodia, Canada, China, Cuba, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Ukraine, Russia and the United States. It is a show of such dazzling originality that one is often left breathless. As before, there are no animals or high-tech contraptions — just men, women and children who do the impossible.

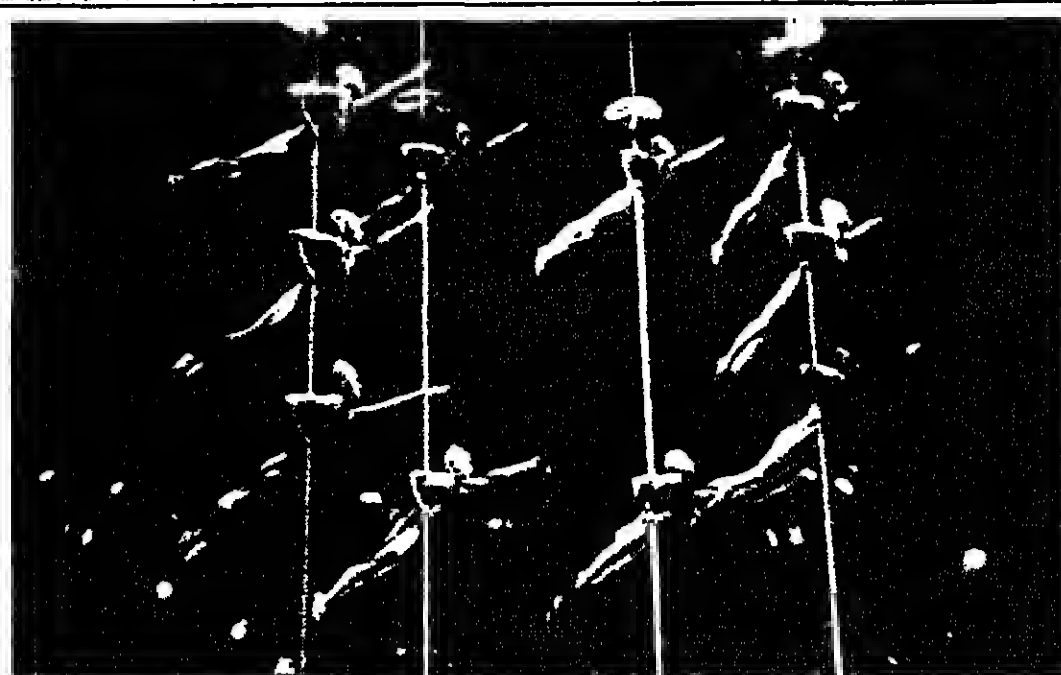
"Le Cirque Reinventé," the first show to cross the border into the U.S., landing in Los Angeles in September 1987, depicted a group of ordinary people who wandered into a circus tent and were magically transformed into circus performers. Two years ago, the Canadian wizards brought their unique brand of entertainment to the Big Apple. Called "Nouvelle Experience," that year's show began with David Shiner, a Chaplin-like clown, walking through a door and realising he had entered into an exotic

land. Among the highlights were Vladimir Kekhail, who executed arduous poses while hanging from overhead straps; and Anne Lepage, who provided some heart-stopping moments in a solo trapeze act. Speculation has abounded about whether Le Cirque Du Soleil would be able to repeat the success of "Nouvelle Experience," which won the prestigious Drama Desk Award for "unique theatrical experience" and was seen by 1.3 million spectators around the world.

Once again Cirque Du Soleil has envisioned a land that looks magical but really is not so different from our own. The fantastically dressed inhabitants are capable of amazing feats, including an electrifying trapeze act of 18-year-old twins Sarah and Karyne Steben; a Russian man who picks up his wife and his daughter, their bodies contorted into human circles, and slips them over his body like rings over a finger; a troupe of acrobats who perform a breathtaking, synchronised, "elastic" ballet

through the air connected to giant bungee cords; a daring tightrope act presented by Jingmin Wang from China; the musclemen balancing act of Portuguese brothers Paulo and Marco Lorador; and a percussive flamenco number. Artistic director Gilles St. Croix believes this act originates in the streets of South America, where young teenagers challenge the skills of their rivals in much the same way break dancers did during the 1980s on the streets of New York. This is the first time women perform the act.

"Cirque Du Soleil is founded on the artist's willingness to push themselves, to challenge the laws of gravity and strength," said St. Croix. "Acrobats can never fake what they do. Their language is daring feats. When you watch a trapeze act, you might feel 'thrilled' or you might feel frightened. Those are very human emotions and they won't need words to tell you what to feel." To give the audiences something totally different each time the circus rolls into



Top of the line athletes make the hardest physical feats look easy under the Big Top

town, Le Cirque searches far and wide for performers of unique talent and grace. Its staff scouts circuses worldwide and attends circus festivals in Monte Carlo, Paris and Verona (Italy) and variety competitions in Russia, China and Germany. "It is not easy to find good

acts," admitted St. Croix. "Most of them are boring and sometimes they are just too bizarre. One gentleman came in for an audition and brought a bag full of live frogs. He proceeded to eat them and if that wasn't enough, he regurgitated them a few minutes later and they were still alive, hopping all over the stage!"

An act that proved to be perfect was that of the Portuguese strongman, the Lorador brothers. Twenty-six-year-old Paulo and his 25-year-old brother, Marco, grew up in a family of circus performers, learning their balancing skills from their father. They performed with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey before Cirque Du Soleil staffers came across them in Monte Carlo.

Paulo was 10 and his brother 9 when they started performing together. A bit bigger, Paulo became the anchor man, supporting Marco, who balances overhead. In their most impressive feat, Paulo lies on his back with his legs and feet upraised. Marco does a handstand on his insteps. Paulo then contorts his body until he ends up on his stomach with Marco still balanced on his insteps.

The audience gasps in disbelief but the routine is far from over. Paulo slowly lowers his legs — with his brother still balancing on them — in a sort of backward leg lift. Then, straining every muscle, he lifts his legs back to the upright position. The routine is tougher than any weight-lifting and the audience knows it. The big top went wild when, after the third attempt, Paulo managed to bring his legs up to a vertical position.

Although half the acts in Saltimbanco are ready made, the rest are created by the artistic directors of Le Cirque. The 18-year-old identical Steben twins from Montreal surfaced through the audition process. When Andrew Watson, the circus training coordinator, met them, he knew they would be perfect for the rare trapeze art of foot-to-foot catching. Watching these two beautiful women, high up in the rafters of the big top, swinging to and fro, launching them-

selves into the void and then catching each other by their feet is beautiful, exhilarating and exhausting.

Sarah and Karyne describe themselves as halves of a whole. "Sometimes we can feel emotion just in the hands or the feet," Sarah explained. "I can feel if she's nervous or if she's O.K., or if she's tired or relaxed. And sometimes we do talk. 'Push. Point your feet. Don't panic. Don't forget to breathe,' or sometimes, 'I love you.'"

"Sometimes I really feel like we're flying," added Karyne. "Each performance is like a miracle." To develop the new show, the artistic directors used the basic theme of "urbanity" to serve as a kind of debate out of which the spectacle could emerge. "The city is so much like the world," St. Croix explained. "There are so many different people living in them, of all nationalities, and we wanted to create something out of that idea, something that reflected these positive aspects of the big city. People are living together, very close, but still they are lonely. We wanted to create a picture of urban unity."

There are many stories told during the show, and all, in one way or another, involve the idea of the child growing into the adult, except in this world he never quite grows up. The character of the dreamer, after a little nonsensical chatter with the audience, curls up into a ball like a cat and dreams up everything that comes onto the stage. "He represents the adult who dreams all day," explained St. Croix. "He makes the audience see everything vicariously through his eyes."

A ticket to this magic show costs \$35. "There is something for everyone and you can attach yourself to one idea, some of them or none of them," St. Croix said. "All we do is try to move people. At the end, maybe they will go out and see the world a little differently because their emotions will have been pushed in so many different ways. If we do that, we haven't made those artists sweat for nothing" — World News Link.



All circus people are magicians: Who knows what brew is brewing?



The show "Saltimbanco" offers a medley of different acts taking place at the same time

## The crazy clown

NEW YORK — Every circus has its clown, but this clown is very different from your usual red-nosed, baggy-trousered huffoon. He can be naughty as the devious man-child in shorts and a red schoolboy's cap. He can be downright scary as grouchy old Death, who, in one scene, kills off the other clowns with a flick of his wrist. He can be bizarre as a kind of sensual, urban Devil, whooshing his cape high above his head and revealing the most sinewy body ever seen. But whatever Monsieur René Bazinet is, he is, above all, a master of the belly laugh.

In one hilarious scene, he mimes entering a toilet. With ingenious sound effects he produces with his mouth, he locks the door and, looking inside the bowl, decides that before he settles down to business, he had better pull the chain. Another very clever sound effect...but suddenly Monsieur Bazinet sees that the water is flowing out of the bowl and rising at an alarming rate. Up and up it goes, until he is submerged and gurgles for help, swimming for his life in the imaginary water closet he has created with his brilliant mime. When it looks like his end has come and the audience is in stitches from having laughed so much, a bunch of clowns arrives in snorkeling gear and rescues the unfortunate Monsieur Bazinet.

For this Cirque Du Soleil, the artistic directors wanted something a little different. They found it in René Bazinet. René was born in 1955 in Germany. He followed in the footsteps of his father, a member of the German Barnum circus during the 1920s. He began his career in 1976, when he performed with a Parisian street theatre troupe. Then he was a player for the Venice Opera and appeared in several French television series. A mysterious and elusive character in real life, this is his first production with Cirque Du Soleil.

"I think the clown can never make a comeback because he never went away," René said. "It will always be there. The clown is a universal character. I can go to Japan and they will laugh. In Germany, here in New York, or in L.A., it does not matter because I speak a common language. It is just a language of the body, the way I move."

René says he didn't always know he was funny. "Sometimes you can think you're funny, but no one laughs. Silence. And then you worry and you try harder and no one laughs again. So then you just say, 'Oh what the hell!' and you do something completely crazy and everyone laughs. The point is, you have to be honest. Otherwise, no one will like you."

Children make good and bad audiences. "They are the best when you're up, but when you are having a bad day there is nothing worse than an audience of children, because they don't care," he explained. "They are only honest. They laugh when it's funny. They scream when they're scared. End of story. There's no faking with children."

He likes to use the audience, particularly men with bald spots. "The bald spot is a clown's dream," he said. "You just take out a cloth and shine it and it's funny. I don't know why... It is just something people like. It means nothing. It's just human." He doesn't worry too much about some people being upset. "If you are kind to an audience, they don't



Clown René Bazinet has found a pupil who mimics his master

mind what you do." For his audience participation sketches, René looks for a certain type of person to help him. "I am always looking for someone with a little something. Sometimes he can be shy or may be a really beautiful girl or a little boy. Anyone with something that is different. Once they're on stage, that difference will make people laugh. They will see a part of themselves up there and that brings everybody in on the game."

People laugh for many reasons — because something may be truly unusual, or they feel uncomfortable or embarrassed or they are happy and even sometimes because they are sad. "You know the saying that clowns are sad? Well, it is true," René said. "There is an element of sadness in a laugh because, although it is such a good feeling, perhaps the best feeling humans can have, it never lasts forever. Once the show is over, after a good night, the silence under the Big Top is often louder than the laughs that came before it — World News Link.



# Pesticide DDT linked to fourfold increase in risk of breast cancer

By Paul Rabinowitz  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Women with the highest exposure to the pesticide DDT had a fourfold increase in the risk of breast cancer, researchers said Tuesday.

The study is one of the first to link the insecticide with breast cancer, although DDT has been known for decades to cause cancer in animals. Some scientists said the study could have important implications for the prevention of breast cancer.

While the findings do not constitute proof that DDT causes breast cancer, they could, if confirmed, provide a possible explanation for the puzzling rise in breast cancer in recent decades in the United States.

"Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and a lot of the risk is unexplained," said the study's principal author, Mary S. Wolff, a chemist at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

The study was being published recently in the Journal

of the National Cancer Institute.

The rise in breast cancer followed the increase in the use of DDT, suggesting that the two might be linked, Dr. Wolff said.

Even though DDT was phased out in 1972 in the United States, "we're all exposed to it through the diet," she said. Before 1972, DDT was common in meat and dairy products, and because it is stored in the body for decades, most Americans still carry DDT residues, she said.

through their mothers' milk, Dr. Wolff said. And DDT is still widely used in other countries, including Mexico, she said.

Dr. Wolff and her colleagues measured levels of a DDT-breakdown product in the blood of 58 women with breast cancer and 171 women without breast cancer. Women with levels in the top 10 per cent had four times the breast cancer risk of women in the bottom 10 per cent.

The researchers also looked for a link between PCBs and breast cancer, but failed to

find one. PCBs, or Polychlorinated Biphenyls, are hazardous liquids used as insulators in electrical transformers. Like DDT, they are widespread environmental contaminants.

In a commentary on the study, David J. Hunter and Karl T. Kelsey of the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston said: "Because the findings...may have extraordinary global implications for the prevention of breast cancer, their study should serve as a wake-up call for further urgent research."

The National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, which paid for Dr. Wolff's study, have now proposed a series of studies looking at potential environmental causes of breast cancer, said Susan Seiber of the Cancer Institute.

"We're behind in our understanding of environmental causes of breast cancer" compared to what's known about hormonal causes of breast cancer, Mr. Seiber said.

Ms. Davis said evidence is growing that chlorine-based chemicals, such as DDT, may

pose serious risks to human health.

She noted an article in the current issue of Chemical and Engineering News, published by the American Chemical Society, which reports growing concern that the chemicals "are causing cancer in adults and adverse health and reproductive effects in the offspring of both humans and wildlife."

The article said that Atrazine, now the most widely used pesticide in the United States, has been linked to an increased risk of ovarian cancer.

who is surgeon for both Laura and Zackery, said every day is more crucial for the little boy.

"He's quite ill," Dr. Tzakis said. "He's in a terminal stage of the disease. What is happening is unfortunately sometimes these children go down very fast. It's hard to predict exactly how much time he has in front of him."

## Many children die waiting for organ transplants

By Patricia Zengerle  
Reuters

PITTSBURGH — The doctors treating three-year-old Zackery Gutierrez are well qualified to perform the double-organ transplant needed to make him well. But what the dark-haired boy does not realize is that his future is more in the hands of fate than his surgeons.

While Zackery spends his days waiting in a hospital, the adults around him spend their time hoping for a donor liver and small intestine of his size and AB blood type to become available before the boy is too sick to survive a transplant.

The development of sophisticated surgical techniques and powerful anti-rejection drugs have made transplants of kidneys, hearts, livers and other organs an accepted treatment for a range of diseases.

But medical breakthroughs can not fight what has become the greatest obstacle for many potential transplant recipients — the critical worldwide shortage of donor organs.

In the United States, where far more transplant operations are performed than in any other country,

only about 4,500 people donate organs each year, though an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 people die who could be considered potential donors, according to the Washington-based Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO).

There are almost 31,000 people now on U.S. transplant waiting lists tracked by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), a non-profit group in Richmond, Virginia that runs the government-sponsored organ distribution programme, and thousands more likely would benefit from such operations.

And, though donors usually provide more than one organ — AOPO said 4,549 donated 14,062 organs for transplant last year — thousands of those on U.S. waiting lists, an estimated five to six per day, will die before any become available.

"The biggest problem is we have more transplant patients than we have human organs," liver transplant pioneer Dr. Thomas Starzl said recently.

"It is a social calamity," he said.

And experts say the shortage is even more acute for children who need organ transplants, particularly

those as young as Zackery. While there are fewer children waiting for such operations — UNOS had 687 aged 10 and under registered in early April — there are even fewer who would be appropriate donors.

"Most of the donors are people who suffer some kind of a head trauma, primarily a cardiovascular accident, auto accident, or shooting," said Al Yokie, executive director of the AOPO.

"Normally, those things don't happen to children," he said.

Experts say that some families embrace the concept of organ donation to give some meaning to the senseless death of a child by saving the life of another.

But for other families, wrestling with the shocking death of a son or daughter is too much even without addressing the question of donation.

And others are squeamish about transplantation for other reasons.

"They feel that if they say they want to be a donor and they are admitted to an emergency room, there will not be the same vigorous attempts to save their life," Mr. Yokie said.

So, though the large majority of Americans have told public opinion pollsters that they support organ transplants, the reality for many patients, especially children like Zackery, is months of fruitless waiting.

"You get kind of scared when you can't really do anything more for them," said Betty Gutierrez, Zackery's mother, who has moved with Zackery and her husband to Pittsburgh from their home in San Diego, California, to await a transplant.

Zackery is Betty and Eugene Gutierrez's only child.

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre is one of only a handful of places in the United States where small intestine-liver transplants are performed.

The centre became the focus of international attention for such an operation last summer, when Laura Davies, a four-year-old from Man-

chester, England, travelled here for a similar operation financed in part by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

Laura and Zackery both suffer from a condition known as "short-gut" syndrome, in which their intestines are unable to absorb nutrients from food.

Victims of the congenital condition can be kept alive for a few years via in-

travenous feedings with a high-nutrition solution, but the solution is so strong that it eventually weakens the children's livers, necessitating the transplant.

Laura was lucky. An appropriate pair of organs became available after she had been in Pittsburgh for less than a month.

But Zackery is less fortun-

ate. He has already been waiting here since November, and may wait even longer. It will be difficult enough to find organs to fit his little frame, but the donor also must share his relatively rare AB positive blood type.

And his condition is worsening.

Andreas Tzakis, director of pediatric transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh,

## AIDS-related tuberculosis sweeping Africa — expert

By Jim Fisher-Thompson

WASHINGTON — The AIDS epidemic sweeping much of Africa has given new life to an ancient plague: Tuberculosis.

According to Dr. Helene Gayle, AIDS coordinator for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), tuberculosis has become "the number one opportunistic disease" attacking persons whose natural resistance has been weakened by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

In parts of Africa, Dr. Gayle said in a recent USAID interview, tuberculosis "has now reached epidemic proportions" and has become the "worst side effect" of AIDS worldwide.

Tuberculosis, a debilitating lung disease caused by an airborne bacillus, was at one time virtually wiped out in developed countries after antibiotic drugs were developed to treat it. It remains a serious health threat in many developing nations, and has begun reappearing in some urban centres in the United States.

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) is at present incurable and invariably fatal, Dr. Gayle predicts that between 30 and 40 per cent of Africa's population may be infected with the AIDS virus by the end of this century.

At the recent seventh annual African regional conference on AIDS in Yaounde, Cameroon, Dr. M.H. Merson, director of the

World Health Organisation's Global AIDS Programme, said four-fifths of all patients admitted to African hospitals have HIV-related diseases, with half of them being infected with tuberculosis.

Dr. Gayle said that since AIDS is spread primarily by heterosexual contact in much of the world, the conference concluded that long-standing social attitudes in some cultures, such as those toward male promiscuity and the subservience of women to men, are going to have to change dramatically if the epidemic is to be contained.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, professor of health at Harvard University's School of Public Health and director of its International AIDS Centre, told the Yaounde conference that "the role and status of

women worldwide are fundamental to HIV prevention."

He said "an analysis of the relationship between gender and AIDS...shows clearly that male-dominated societies are a threat to public health." And he explained that "women cannot say no to unwanted or unprotected sexual intercourse unless they have the economic and social power to mean no."

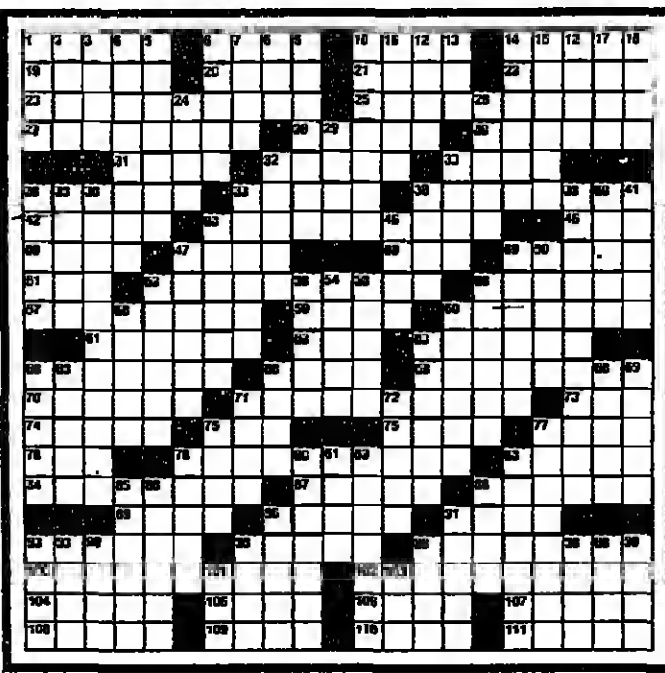
Dr. Mann charged that "global mobilisation is being replaced by complacency and a lack of coordinated and strategic leadership." He noted that AIDS has spread rapidly in a number of countries, such as Nigeria, Paraguay, India, Burma and Thailand, that were little affected by the disease a few years ago — USAID.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

FIRST NAME CROSS

By Joel Davignon

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Some hungry eaters, not tiny, should go on a diet to get fat to fat.
2. Favored junior miss enjoyed at prospect of her huge coming-out party.
3. Cool, swarthy sleuth wore sporty suede moccasins and used a simple
4. Whenever I read good books, my wicker armchair becomes a magic carpet transporting me to everywhere.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. KJBQHTCR KJCT DA WXTBMBX ERKJCA  
XW ARXI KQIACA AKJXQA WXT MJC  
HDB. —By Earl Ireland

2. MITHKBCN FX MFACX SIBCV INB BV  
ZNVOP BKC VTBSNW VA I OVTPEZ  
KCINB. —By Gordon Miller

3. PSEGBSUUM, BWARU SBW GROWE EDSB  
AGH YAGPEHM'U EDTP SOOWOE CAFE  
ALLOWE EDW,CWLTTE. —By Barbara J. Rags

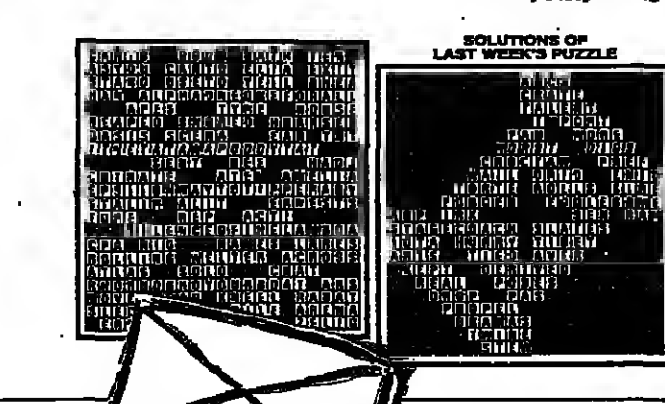
4. YKZV ITAH LHLIZJY LCTJRA KBH  
QTLCBIDS ZVYD IDVRIB QKETH. —By Joseph DeLigio

Diagramless

10 & 19, By Thomas W. Schler

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## N. Ireland teenagers ignore world's worst heart disease rate

By Paul Majendie  
Reuters

BELFAST — Northern Ireland has the worst coronary heart disease rate in the world — but the teenage victims of tomorrow refuse to change their lifestyle.

They love a good fry-up, start smoking at an early age and rarely take any exercise, according to a survey of 1,000 teenagers across the British province.

Heart attacks are a far more lethal and real threat than one of the world's longest-running guerrilla conflicts in which more than 3,000 people have been killed in the 23 year fight by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

The Northern's health troubles begin at the breakfast table with the Uister fry, known with typical Belfast black humour as "the heart attack on a plate."

For the caring Belfast mother readily reaches for the frying pan to start the day. Fried eggs, bacon, sausages, tomatoes, soda bread, potatoes and mushrooms are firm fried favourites to clog the arteries.

Parents are not the perfect role models. One in three adults smokes in Northern Ireland and children start early.

Statistics from the World Health Organisation (WHO) show that heart disease killed 559 per 100,000 people in Northern Ireland.

Next came Scotland and Finland. The United States dropped to 320 after major public health campaigns and

the fish-eating Japanese were bottom of the table with just 51 deaths per 100,000.

The grim statistics prompted the Northern Ireland health authorities to launch a "change of heart" campaign to alert people to the very real dangers they faced from heart attacks.

Doctors launched a pre-emptive strike with a survey of 1,000 children across the province who were tested for blood pressure, exercise patterns and lifestyle.

The survey of 12-year-olds showed alarmingly that 45 per cent of them had at least one coronary heart disease risk factor such as high cholesterol levels, smoking, obesity or high blood pressure.

Now a follow-up survey two years later of those unhealthy teenagers has provided even more cause for concern — nearly three quarters of them have at least one of the high risk factors, 20 per cent had three or more risk factors.

"We investigated 1,000 adolescents and we found unfortunately that a significant proportion had at least one major risk factor present," said Dr. Daphne Primrose of Craigavon Hospital.

"It is particularly disturbing that so many children are at risk of developing future heart disease. We found unfortunately that just two per cent of children either walked or rode a bicycle to school."

"We found as well that the majority of children we surveyed hadn't taken any vigorous exercise sufficient to get them out of breath and these were children who had regular P.E. (physical education)

classes at school."

She told Irish state radio: "We did a nutrition survey and it gave us great cause for concern. We know that a diet that is high in total calories, high in saturated fats and low in fibre predisposes to the development of heart disease. We found that our children ate such a diet."

Dr. Primrose urged parents to set an example and stop smoking. Families should also think about taking exercise together.

"Cycling, swimming and jogging are very good aerobic exercises," she said.

But changing habits that have been passed down from generation to generation is a huge task.

School canteens offer Irish stew, salads and pasta as healthy alternatives to the ubiquitous fry-up.

Asked what would happen if burgers, sausages and chips were taken off the menu, one school meals supervisor confessed: "We wouldn't have any customers. They would all go to the chip van at the gate or downtown."

But changing habits that have been passed down from generation to generation is a huge task.

School canteens offer Irish stew, salads and pasta as healthy alternatives to the ubiquitous fry-up.

Asked what would happen if burgers, sausages and chips were taken off the menu, one school meals supervisor confessed: "We wouldn't have any customers. They would all go to the chip van at the gate or downtown."

## SOLUTIONS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Scientists who study the fascinating subject of names — names of places and people — to find out their origins.
2. Edgar Allan Poe.
3. A bed that may be folded or swung into a closet when not in use.
4. An entirely imaginary condition allegedly due to exhaustion of the nervous system.
5. Yes, by opening and closing their shells.
6. Non-territorial water — open to all.
7. Bull's-Eye.
8. Breton. (also called Armorican)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### PUZZLES

- (1) 31, 63 (one less than successive powers of 2).
- (2) 252, 392 (the sum of successive cubes and squares).
- (3) 336, 504 (product of N, N + 1 and N + 2).
- (4) 18, 30 (two simple series interlocked: 18-22-26 and 22-20-18).
- (5) 40384, 362961 (factorial N plus the square of N, starting with N=3).





WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis (left) of England, boxing promoter Don King (center) and challenger to Lewis, Tony Tucker of the U.S. pose for photographers at the end of news conference to promote May 8 fight in Las Vegas (AFP photo)

## Lewis to defend title against Tucker on May 8

NEW YORK (AP) — After flying in from London Tuesday, Lennox Lewis got caught in traffic and was an hour late for his news conference with Tony Tucker.

Lewis promised to be on time on May 8, when he defends his WBC heavyweight championship against Tucker at the Mirage in Las Vegas.

"I'll be there early," Lewis said. "I can't wait to get to Tony Tucker. He's the only thing on my mind right now. I'm going to knock him out."

Tucker claimed Lewis' tardiness showed he wasn't taking the fight seriously.

"It's an insult to me," Tucker said as his supporters shouted and cheered. "When you're getting paid \$9 million, you should at least be able to make it to a press conference on time."

Lewis-Tucker is part of a pay-per-view tripleheader that will feature two other WBC title fights — super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Terence Allie and middleweight titleholder Julian Jackson vs. Gerald McClellan.

But the focus of Tuesday's promotion was the heavyweight showdown.

Although Tucker is a former IBF champion, he is a heavy underdog against Lewis, who will be making the first defense of his WBC crown. Lewis (22-0) was awarded the title after then-undisputed champ Riddick Bowe dumped the WBC belt in a trash can following a dispute with the sanctioning organization.

Lewis, the first British fighter in this century to hold a world heavyweight title, already has lined up a \$27 million fight in September with countryman Frank Bruno. But he insisted he isn't looking past Tucker (51-1), who was won 14 straight fights since losing his IBF title to Mike Tyson in 1987 on a 12-round decision.

"I'm definitely not taking him lightly," Lewis said. "He's a very good fighter, but he's never fought anybody like me. He's in for a big surprise."

Tucker, who didn't fight for nearly 2-1/2 years after losing to Tyson, has overcome drug, management and hand problems to get another shot at the title.

## Dortmund in title contention

BERLIN (AP) — A goal by Matthias Sammer kept Borussia Dortmund in the title hunt as they beat Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-0 in the German soccer league.

Dortmund's win on the road in front of 34,500 left the team only two points behind the league's co-leaders, Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich.

Sammer's goal came in the 23rd minute, followed by a shot from Gerhard Poschner in 44th. Swiss national player Stephane Chapuisat added the final tally in 83rd.

In Leverkusen, Anthony Yeboah kicked in the equalizer in the 65th minute to help fourth-place Eintracht Frankfurt salvage a 1-1 draw with Bayer Leverkusen. A crowd of 15,000 watched midfielder Guido Hoffman stake the home team to an early lead by scoring in the 12th minute.

In a battle of the two last placed teams, striker Holger Aden nailed the go-ahead goal in

68th minute as 17th-place VFL Bochum beat 18th-place Bayer Uerdingen 4-1.

Uerdingen's Helmut Rahnner stunned the crowd by scoring in the second minute, but Thomas Kempe equalized 1-1 in the 12th minute. Bochum's Sven Christians and Heiko Bonan both tallied within seconds in 81st for two insurance goals.

Marc Kienle was the hero as VFB Stuttgart blanked FC Cologne 2-0 in a game played in Stuttgart with 25,000 in attendance. He scored in the 51st and 77th minutes.

FC Kaiserslautern came from behind on the road behind Marcus Marin's goal in the 45th minute to draw 1-1 with Karlsruhe SC. The crowd of 27,000 saw Manfred Bender stake Karlsruhe to a quick 1-0 lead in the second minute.

In Saarbrücken, midfielder Eduard Buckmaier kicked the only goal in the 27th minute as the home team lost to Wattenscheid 1-0.



Werder Bremen's Wynton Rufer challenges Bayern Munich's Lothar Matthäus (right) during the first division match Tuesday (AFP photo)

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY APRIL 29, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You could feel very frustrated today as the Moon squares the Sun and Mercury squares Uranus and you attempt to free yourself of errors made in the past that are coming home to haunt you. Go easy.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Start the day by handling whatever public interests that require your attention and they are easily made to work well, then look out for errors.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) A new light dawns upon your consciousness in extending your activities so quickly accept and then carry through carefully with necessary details.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You need to be better organized in your practical obligations so do this early after which it is essential you take no chances with your security.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out to find out what a partner expects of you and quickly put in motion, after which don't resent the effort required to do so.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You have a good start at your activities early in the day so take advantage of this and then expect some obstacle that needs really carefully handling.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You awaken with a happy feeling and can make fine arrange-

ment for a good time early after which it is essential you know to what you are committing yourself.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get whatever you want done at home to perfect shape and condition early for later you will have some problems that require your complete attention.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You can make real progress with whatever usual activities require your attention in the morning but later it is necessary to take up problems difficult.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You early see what you can do to make your practical affairs operate better in the morning while afternoon finds it necessary to use care with finance.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have splendid ideas in the morning for gaining the things that really send you while later it is necessary to use patience in getting them.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Consider well your secret longings and early devise a plan to bring them to yourself then you are prepared to face the days tasks with courage.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You have a good friend and supporter to contact early for the backing you desire with a pet project, then invest time and tonight be with charming companions.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY APRIL 30, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Take the time to see both sides of whatever problems face you as the Moon square Pluto and opposition to Saturn limit your chances for a right settlement.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Don't try to expand your assets too much but make sure that you have studied and gotten them so they will yield you good and regular returns for your efforts.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Get into the gritty-gritty of any agreements with those with whom you have an agreement, written or tacit, and later you get big results of value.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Your work may seem to have some finesse and mistakes which need to be corrected before you go forward then you can have longtime beneficial results.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) It would be unwise to commit yourself to some extra vagrant recreation during the daytime as tonight finds you enjoying long accepted pleasures.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Your work load seems to be more that you can finish but schedule your hours sensibly and you find you are easy to make headway you do wish.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Give special attention to the special gifts you are trying to make useable and although they start out

to be difficult, by nightfall you have conquered any obstacles.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Decide what you want to do at home tonight during the daytime and then put this plan in effect with tact, diplomacy to please your own household.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Don't be upset if it is early difficult to contact persons with whom you want to communicate for you find it easy later so get in touch with them.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Some practical problems seem to have elements connected with them that make it impossible for you to accomplish what you wish but persevere.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Think out with more care what you want and don't be discouraged that you do not at once see ways to obtain but they slowly but definitely unfold as you wish.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have tasks to perform, that only you can do so get them out of the way today so that you will be able to gain advancement you want tonight.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You have best work alone to bring your aims closer to yourself during the daytime but tonight longtime support will give you added boost you need.

## Zafonic may be hottest favourite at Newmarket

NEWMARKET, England (R) — French colt Zafonic may start as the hottest favourite since Nijinsky more than 20 years ago for the English 2,000 Guineas horse racing classic Saturday.

Zafonic, the mount of former champion jockey Pat Eddery, is down to 8-11 despite a disappointing defeat last time out. Nijinsky started at 4-7 in 1970.

Trained by Andre Fabre, Zafonic appeared to be the best juvenile in Europe last season after emphatic victories at the highest level.

But the colt suffered a shock defeat in a Guineas warm-up race in Paris, prompting bookmakers to push him out to 2-1 against.

He became odds on favourite, however, after a series of inconclusive trials in England failed to produce any outstanding contenders.

An excellent gallop at the weekend also boosted punters' confidence in Prince Khalid Abdullah's horse.

Soft ground, contributed to Zafonic's defeat at Maisons-

Laffitte but it is unlikely to be a factor over the Newmarket mile.

The next three in the betting, Wharf, Baratheas and Chaddelwood, have received little support from backers recently.

The trio finished second, fourth and sixth earlier this month in the Craven Stakes, often a first-rate guide to the Guineas.

But none is seen as winner material, although Baratheas will be ridden by champion jockey Michael Roberts.

Wharf, with Walter Swinburn on board, is currently second favourite at 8-1, followed by 9-1 chances Baratheas and Chaddelwood.

The traditional three-day meeting starts Thursday with the first of the season's five classics, the 1,000 Guineas for fillies.

Elizabeth Bay, the 2-1 favourite, could deliver a famous double for France and trainer Fabre, although she was also beaten in her warm-up race at Maisons-Laffitte.

## ANNOUNCEMENT CENTRAL BANK OF JORDAN NEW PIEDFORT GOLD COIN

On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's 40th anniversary of assuming His constitutional powers, the Central Bank has now available for sale a piedfort gold coin commemorating the 40th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne issued in 1952 together with the ordinary gold coin and the silver coin of the same occasion.

The coin is sold at the Central Bank's premises as of Wednesday the 28th of April from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\* Enquiries: Currency Issue Department,  
Tel: 530301  
Fax: 636889, P.O.Box: 37

## CENTRO CULTURAL ESPAÑOL

### المرکز الثقافي الإسباني ANNOUNCES

The start of intensive Spanish language courses for beginners

Duration: From May 3, 1993 to June 12, 1993

Registration dates: April 27, 28 and 29, 1993

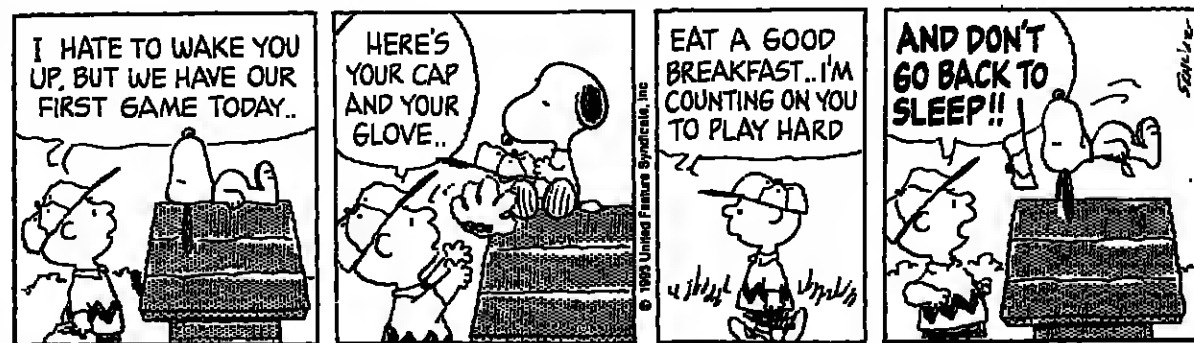
Classes: Saturdays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

(Two hours a day from 5 to 7 pm)

For More Information call  
Tel.: 624049-610858

Spanish Cultural Centre — Jabal Amman, Third Circle  
Daily except Fridays and Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and from 3-7 p.m.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** This is a good day to be in touch with friends and to find out how they feel about your relationship with them and how it can be improved. Add to your accruing benefits by repaying some social obligations.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Interesting friends and acquaintances will give you considerable support if you request it from them after getting rid of obligations that irk.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) A demanding associate takes up some of your morning but later you are able to get at whatever vocational or community interests are yours, handle them successfully.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get essential chores quickly out of the way early for then you have it in your power to bring some new activities into your life to expand it.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You need to perfect a special talent you have and then you can take it to an astute business person who can help you to market it right away.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You have a home problem to solve after which you will be able to contact an extraordinary person to get the backing for a plan that means much to you.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Put more pizzazz in whatever

tasks you have to do after attending to a pressing communication after breakfast and you make big speed towards success.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Put yourself out early to handle that money matter for at once this is done you find you can be off to some amusements that bring you delight.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You have a personal matter to settle before you still to handle those family situations that require you have a fresh and original approach at them.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You can put a sparkle in any communications or correspondence you have today after getting rid of a secret anxiety that has been bugging you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have a personal wish or issue that bothers you to be solved and then you will be able to get into doing what amazes your property, budget.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have an outside matter to take care of after which your aspects are seen for going after the unusual and original goals you have.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A matter from afar claims your attention early but then get into whatever private dreams you have from an entirely new and radical approach and you get them.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"You left me a tip! Does this mean my kisses are improving?"

## JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SYKAH

RODAH

INVOTE

STEJER

WHAT THE CUTE LITTLE POTATO WAS WARNED AGAINST.

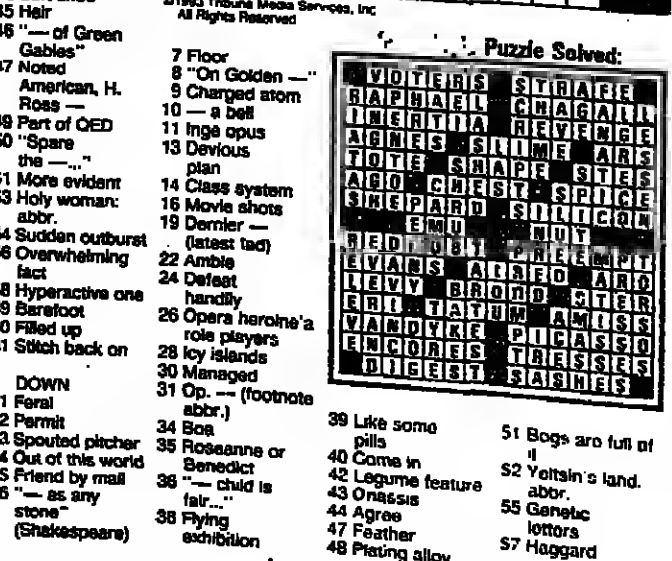
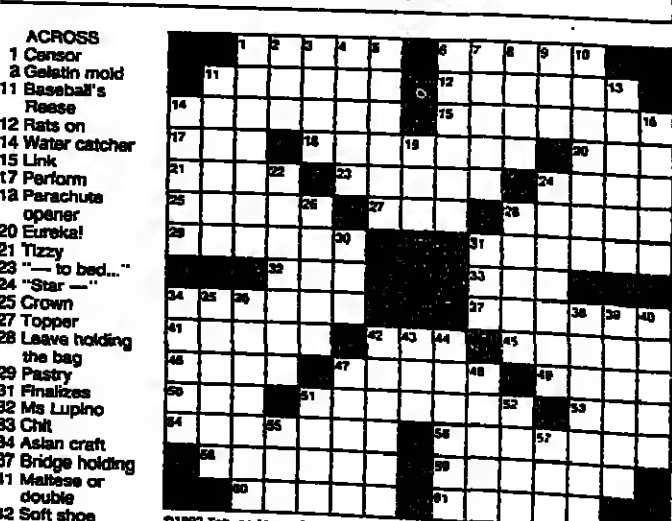
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CAPON RAPID NUDESM TIMELY

Answer: What the egotist was suffering from—STRAIN

## THE Daily Crossword by At Becker





## Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound*	1.5753	1.5750
Deutsche Mark	1.5847	1.5872
Swiss Franc	1.4270	1.4295
French Franc	5.3468	5.3335
Japanese Yen	111.75	111.88
European Currency Unit	1.2315	1.2255

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.09	3.18	3.43
Sterling Pound	6.06	5.87	5.93	6.06
Deutsche Mark	7.81	7.68	7.57	6.75
Swiss Franc	5.25	4.87	4.69	4.37
French Franc	8.37	8.12	7.87	7.25
Japanese Yen	3.21	3.15	3.25	3.28
European Currency Unit	8.62	8.43	8.25	7.69

Practical Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	349.65	6.65	Silver	4.07	0.09

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6830	0.6850
Sterling Pound	1.0758	1.0812
Deutsche Mark	0.4299	0.4320
Swiss Franc	0.4766	0.4790
French Franc	0.1274	0.1280
Japanese Yen*	0.6100	0.6131
Dutch Guilder	0.3824	0.3849
Swedish Krona	0.0937	0.0942
Italian Lira*	0.0461	0.0463
Belgian Franc	0.02089	0.02099

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7920	1.8250
Lebanese Lira*	0.03550	0.04030
Saudi Riyal	0.1818	0.1828
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2240	2.2740
Qatari Riyal	0.1844	0.1865
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7410	1.7800
UAE Dirham	0.1844	0.1865
Greek Drachma*	0.3162	0.3462
Cypriot Pound	1.4340	1.4640

CAE Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	26/4/1993 Close	27/4/1993 Close
All-Share	198.19	198.16
Banking Sector	137.98	137.69
Insurance Sector	213.48	213.48
Industry Sector	282.34	282.27
Services Sector	259.19	262.13

## NEW PRODUCT FROM LOEWE

AMMAN — Director of Abu Shakra commercial establishment, Raed Abu Shakra, at a press conference Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel announced that the establishment will launch on the market a new line of Spanish Loewe perfumes: Esencia Loewe for men and Aire Loewe for women.

Mr. Mil. S. Ilich, international development manager for Loewe Perfumes, said: "First established in 1846, by the turn of the century, Loewe had come to stand for the highest quality in leather goods. After receiving a royal warrant in 1905, by 1920, Loewe was the finest shop in Madrid."

Today, Loewe also stands for fashion, travel, gifts, accessories and...perfume. "The Loewe style has its own special perfume too."

**ESENCIA LOEWE**  
Eau de Toilette for Men

It has more than 200 olfactory notes, from which, in the beginning, emerge the lightest and most fresh odors of Petit grain and Citronier from Calabria. Then you perceive its permanent body notes, spiced, fragrant and up to date, such as Tarragon, Nutmeg, Rose from Brazil and Cassis.

Loewe is a fragrance which, because of its contrasting chords, achieves the balance between the Mediterranean hedonism and the neorenaissance taste, deeply sensual and of an almost oriental refinement. The essence symbolises this

classic and innovative style so true to Loewe.

Loewe Essence is a decidedly masculine fragrance, which reaches a perfect balance between classicism and innovation.

Loewe Essence for men is a classic, because of its refinement and sensitivity. Because it is original and unique, it is contemporary. Loewe Essence is a contemporary classic.

Mr. Omran R. Malki, vice-president of National Marketing Co. said:

"When AIRE LOEWE was introduced, its conception was based on the conviction that there was a vacant space on the Mediterranean perfume market."

Studies showed that this perfume, non-existent as yet, would fulfill the desires and preferences shown by a significant part of our market and, moreover, that the products already launched responded to contrary aspirations. The fashion of the time was then dominated by intense, powerful, seductive perfumes.

A few months after its launching, AIRE LOEWE became the leader in the feminine sector of Spanish exclusive perfumes. AIRE LOEWE has become a true classic, enjoying great popularity, a star among Spanish exclusive perfumes and of course, one of Loewe's gems.

To create AIRE LOEWE was inspired by the personality of the modern woman, AIRE transmits another way of life, carefree, extrovert, dynamic, with a touch of sensitivity and fragility AIRE LOEWE.

## Planning minister admits government failure to adequately inform public about sales tax

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A public rally held Tuesday evening at the Professional Associations Complex to debate the contentious sales tax issue failed to tackle the subject in a sensible, intelligent and decent manner as the atmosphere was basically confrontational amid an unwillingness by the nearly thousand attendees to seek better understanding of what the government had to say or explain.

The government, represented by the ministers of planning and supply and the governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and other officials, was heavily hammered and cornered to the extent that the minister of plan-

ning could not help but say that he was tricked into accepting to attend and address the rally. Both the minister and the CBJ governor left at the end of the rally complaining of "demagogism" and voicing disapproval to the statement of the rally coordinator that the public had unanimously rejected the sales tax.

Ziyad Fariz, the planning minister, had obviously viewed the rally as a forum to intellectual, organized and comprehensive discussions on the sales tax but many speakers from the audience were totally off the line.

One member of the audience, apparently a member of the Islamic Liberation Front, contented

by trying to restructure the Jordanian economy the authorities were endorsing Arab divisions, confirming the Sykes-Picot geographic dismemberment of the region and impeding the emergence of a united Arab economic structure under an Islamic caliphate domain.

Another man said in his intervention that he was not interested in Jordan's economic future because what he wanted to see was only the confiscation of the property of all those who were responsible for the Kingdom's economic woes in 1988-1989.

Tayseer Zihri, secretary-general of the Jordan People's Democratic Party, made a brief statement that showed oratory talent but offered nothing substantial to what was supposed to be an economic reasoning of why or why not should a sales tax be introduced.

Dr. Fariz strongly defended the sales tax and emphasized that it would not affect the poor sector of the society. He named few "luxury" services that will be subjected to the sales tax, and, based on the list he mentioned, the minister seemed to have won many people to his camp.

The minister drew heavily on the successes which were accomplished by implementing the structural adjustment programme

in the past and cited lower inflation, lower deficits, stable dinar and better industrial performance.

He indicated that by reducing tariffs on some imports, the local industry will be forced to improve quality to compete and break into export markets rather than depend on traditional markets or under the "protocols system."

As a result, he added, industries will expand and be able to absorb more workers thereby reducing unemployment.

Dr. Fariz assured the audience that the effect of the sales tax on the treasury's income will be neutral because the sales tax on some items will be offset by tariff reduction on some imports.

Reducing the tariff on some imports has alarmed the Chamber of Industry which sought to keep local industries protected at the highest possible rate.

The minister said the industrialists were given haphazard levels of protection in previous years but he pledged that the government would ensure from now on that all industries receive a real minimum 30 per cent rate of protection that could, under special circumstances, rise to 50 per cent maximum.

Walid Khatib, general manager of the Chamber of Industry, said: "How can we trust such a pledge if it is not specifically stated in the proposed sales tax law?"

Dr. Fariz repeatedly urged the public to support an "unharmful" sales tax but he did not go beyond the sales tax into other stages which will see a wide implementation of a value-added tax.

Hamzeh Haddad, a lawyer and a professor of law at the University of Jordan, pointed out the numerous gaps in the four drafts of the sales tax.

In what he described as the "cabinets" or "minister's law," Dr. Haddad accused the minister of finance of according himself too many prerogatives with many articles ending with phrase: "According to the regulations or conditions the minister regards as suitable."

"These prerogatives are unconstitutional. They are merely a set of rules formulated into a law," he said.

Deputy Laith Shbeilat warned against being emotionally carried away into accepting the sales tax.

"You let this tax pass and I'll say 'Mabrook', not for this first stage alone, but also for a host of higher taxes that will be imposed in the future of the basis of the authorisation included in this sales tax," Mr. Shbeilat told the audience.

Mr. Shbeilat called on the public to reject the tax describing it as being part of Western policies aimed at controlling world markets and lifting all barriers that

restrict the flow of Western goods to Third World countries.

The deputy described the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as the neo-colonialists, "although the weaponry has changed over the years to become controlling the economic survival of Third World countries."

Mr. Shbeilat accused the government of having intentionally avoided a parliamentary debate of the sales tax and of trying to keep the issue far from public knowledge.

Dr. Fariz acknowledged that the sales tax was not put to the public through appropriate channels and that the information about it was often distorted and not accurately carried by the newspapers. He said a comprehensive coverage about the subject on television would be considered.

The minister rebuked the general manager of the consumer protection society for organising the public rally and told him that such a sensitive and important subject should not have been discussed at such a gathering.

"I know how consumer protection societies function and it would have been better if your organisation focused on guiding the public to improve their buying behaviour," the minister said.

## Economy poses greater threat to Iraqi president than rebels

By Jane Arraf  
Reuters

AMMAN — Empty shops, uneasy traders and a free-falling currency are posing more of a threat to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein than any potential coup, diplomats and analysts say.

On the streets and in the corridors of power, President Saddam appears firmly in command.

Diplomats said despite scattered incidents of unrest in Baghdad they had no evidence to back reports of a recent coup attempt against the Iraqi leader.

But if there are threats to his position, they will come from an economy which has shown signs of slipping out of control in the last week, analysts said.

At foreign exchange houses in Jordan, the main export point for the beleaguered currency slide to 95 to the dollar at the weekend — half its value a month ago and 300 times less than the official rate.

The fall is a symptom of an increasingly troubled economy which has seen soaring inflation, severe shortages and a currency hacked mostly by the government's willingness to print money.

"Potentially it's a very destabilising situation," said one Western diplomat who viewed the economy as a bigger problem to the Iraqi leader than Shi'ite or Kurdish rebels.

The dinar is officially worth \$3.20 but has little gold or foreign exchange to back it. Factories are lying idle because of lack of spare parts while Iraq's immense oil reserves are kept off the market by the U.N. sanctions.

"Sanctions are holding Iraq's economy hostage. Saddam is getting by but he is having problems," said an economic analyst, adding that the economy would splinter if the crisis further alienated the important private sector.

After Iraq executed 42 businessmen accused of profiteering last year, many traders, already suffering from a drop in the dinar, simply stopped shipping goods to Baghdad.

This time, traders said Baghdad businessmen closed their shops to avoid losses Sunday after the dinar plunged, reopening only after a government order. No one believes that Iraqis

deprived of meat and medicine will rise up against the government, which crushed uprisings in the north and south after its Gulf war defeat in 1991.

But 2½ years after the U.N. punished Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with sweeping trade sanctions, the economy held together by secret deals, smuggling, hidden assets and complicated barter arrangements seems to be fraying at the seams.

Diplomats and Iraqi sources say the government prints money to pay regular bonuses to military and Baath Party officials and tribal leaders, and import materials to rebuild industry.

Iraqis say the crisis has installed bribery as a way of life in the once-rich country, with everything from import approvals to changed identities available at a price.

Sources close to the government said President Saddam earlier this year ordered his security chief Fadhil Al Barrak executed after accusing him of bribery and treason.

Traders said this week's decline in the dinar was fuelled by heavy government buying of dollars to buy food and spare parts, and increasing purchases of hard currency by ordinary Iraqis.

"The dollar is no longer a currency, it is a commodity," said one trader who added that frantic Iraqis were buying black market dollars as they once bought gold.

Diplomats say stop-gap measures such as oil futures, barter deals and what appear to be growing shipments of food and medicine aid for future payment are keeping the economy afloat.

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.276772	Deutsche marks
1.591020	Dutch guilders
1.789090	Swiss francs
1.436393	Belgian francs
32.7478	French francs
5.3673725	Italian lire
14861488	Japanese yen
111.9095	Swedish crowns
7.29103010	Norwegian crowns
6.7250350	Danish crowns
6.1275375	
\$1.571525	
\$349.65/\$350.15	

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Today the Nabil Mashini Theatre hosts

**Al Fawaris Troupe acting**

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**Death of Taybeh**

By: Suheil Fahd, Mohammad Al Qabbani, Amer Al Khafash

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# Bosnia's war zones erupt as peace plan founders

SARAJEVO (R) — Fresh battles erupted in Bosnia between Muslims, Croats and Serbs Wednesday in defiance of a ceasefire and international efforts to end the civil war.

British peacekeeping troops based in the town of Vitez in central Bosnia said Muslims and Croats were fighting between Busovaca and Kiseljak northwest of the capital, Sarajevo.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio reported shelling of Velika Kladusa in the Bihac area of northwestern Bosnia where the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said about 150 Serb troops backed by 10 tanks and artillery launched an offensive Tuesday.

It said the northeastern Muslim town of Gradacac was under heavy Serb attack for the third successive day and that its industrial zone was on fire.

The scale of fighting has risen sharply since Bosnia's refusal to accept an international peace plan signed by rival Muslims and Croats.

Frustrated by failure to end a conflict that has caused thousands of deaths and made many more people homeless, the United Nations tightened sanctions against Serbian-led Yugoslavia for failing to persuade Bosnia's Serbs to accept the plan.

World leaders are considering tougher action to get the rebel Serbs to accept the plan to divide Bosnia into 10 provinces, largely along ethnic lines.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton began a round of consultations with U.S. legislators on possible military action in the Balkans with no sign of a consensus emerging.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher told a Senate appropriations hearing Tuesday that air strikes against Serb aggression in Bosnia were among the options being considered.

"I am perfectly personally quite prepared to see the United States use force not only there but any place around the world," he said. "But it has to meet some very severe tests."

Mr. Christopher set out four conditions if air strikes were to be used to force Bosnian Serbs to accept a peace agreement.

They were a clearly understandable goal, the mission's likely success, public support and "an exit strategy" so that U.S. forces would not become bogged down in a Balkan quagmire.

Sarajevo Radio said Gradacac suffered its worst day for weeks Tuesday when at least three people were killed in a barrage of shell and rocket attacks.

UNPROFOR spokesman Pepe Gallegos told reporters in Sarajevo the conflict between Muslim and Croats around Vitez, Zenica and Travnik was sporadic but pitched battles were continuing elsewhere in the region.

"Inter-village fighting persists in the Busovaca, Kacuni and Kiseljak valleys," he added. "I think the forces in that area are preparing to fight."

U.N. aid official John MacMillan said representatives of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the besieged Muslim town of Srebrenica in east Bosnia were reporting some clashes outside it between Muslim and Serb forces.

UNPROFOR said the Serbs had taken three villages north of Bihac near Bosnia's northwestern border with Croatia in Tuesday's offensive.

The command of Bosnia's Serb army denounced the attack as a spontaneous act of vengeance by local gunmen out of control.

UNPROFOR civil affairs coordinator Cedric Thornberry said Tuesday the situation was highly explosive and "could easily escalate into a full-scale war."

U.N. relief officials are about the plight of thousands of refugees and civilians who depend

on aid from the U.N. in the Bihac area.

They said the refugees had no outlet from the Bihac areas and risked being trapped.

President Clinton is considering new U.S.-led moves to end the civil war in Bosnia but is not expected to announce a decision before next week, press secretary Dee Dee Myers said Wednesday.

"Consultations are ongoing," Mr. Myers said, referring to discussions with European allies and members of Congress.

Although Mr. Clinton told reporters Monday that he expected to announce tougher measures within "several days" to force Bosnian Serbs to accept peace terms, Mr. Myers said, "I think it's unlikely it will happen this week."

Freneb, Defence Minister Francois Leotaud threatened Wednesday to pull French troops out of former Yugoslavia because of the way the United Nations runs its peacekeeping operations.

"If questions as important and as basic as the definition of missions, clarity, in the chain of command and adequate financing ... are not resolved, we will review the presence there of all or part of our forces," he told the National Assembly.

## ANC militant wants action as talks flounder

CAPE TOWN (R) — An ANC militant said Wednesday blacks disappointed by lack of progress in floundering South African democracy talks should short-circuit negotiations and take over local government services.

Tony Yengeni, Western Cape secretary of the African National Congress (ANC), said a proposed programme of mass action for democracy would focus in Cape Town on improving the living standards of blacks left trailing by apartheid.

"If we don't make progress

now, the stage will be set for a tremendous social explosion," he said at a news conference.

Government spokesman Izak Reelief said a 10-member planning committee would meet in Johannesburg Thursday to explore strategies to keep multi-party democracy talks on track.

He said the committee would prepare for Friday's resumption of bargaining amongst 26 parties including the government, the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

"Friday's meeting will be very

important because it will show the direction, if any, that the talks will take," he said.

Substantive negotiations resumed Monday after a 10-month hiatus but stalled almost immediately amid procedural wrangles and signs that Inkatha and its conservative allies — black and white — plan to slow the process as much as possible.

Inkatha delegate Joe Matthews published a stinging attack on reformist President F.W. de Klerk and government chief negotiator Roelf Meyer Tuesday.

He called them "spineless" and accused Mr. De Klerk of lying about a recent meeting with Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Negotiation sources said they were also concerned about the role of the white-supremacist Conservative Party.

"If (deputy leader Ferdi) Hartzenberg takes over and follows his own line I think we will see them leave the negotiations process soon," a senior government delegate said.

## Zambian plane with soccer team crashes into sea

LUSAKA (AFP) — Shock, grief and disbelief is gripping Lusaka as news of the death of the national football team spreads through the Zambian capital.

A Zambia Air Force plane carrying 18 of the country's best players and five Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) officials crashed after a refuelling stop in Gabon.

National radio played solemn music immediately after announcing the news.

A visibly shaken Minister of Sport, Dipar Patel, stormed out of his office for a meeting with Vice President Levy Mwanawasa to discuss the disaster.

"He has received confirmation that the plane crashed last night and so far they have not found anything not even the wreckage of the plane... it is possible that

no one survived," said Mr. Patel's secretary.

Reports from the Gabonese capital, Libreville, say several bodies had been brought ashore by mid-morning and that there were no traces of survivors.

Divers also recovered sports bags and police were trying to make an inventory.

The news comes as President Frederick Chiluba is in Uganda on an official visit.

This is the first major disaster in Zambia's sport history. The team was flying in a Zambian Air Force Buffalo CT15 plane that flew them from Mauritius Monday.

On the streets of Lusaka, some people wept openly as the news of the crash spread, and a sports journalist at the Times of Zambia collapsed with shock.

"We only hope it is not true... this is very shocking I have not confirmed the incident myself but I only hope it is not true," FAZ Vice Chairman Winston Gumbo told AFP.

The Zambian team, which was leading Group D of the African Nations Cup after beating Mauritius in Curepipe 3-0 last weekend, was considered the best in Southern Africa.

FAZ chairman, Michael Mwape, who was accompanying the team, promised local reporters that Zambia would succeed in reaching the 1994 World Cup finals in America.

Their next qualifying match was to be against Senegal Sunday.

"Fresh from the 3-0 win in Mauritius, we promise a repeat of

the same performance. The team want another win away," said Mwape.

The team included five international-based players, including Kelvin Mutale, who plays for Saudi Arabia's El Ettifaq; Robert Wanyani, South Africa's Dynamos FC; Godfrey Kangwa, who plays in Morocco; and Samuel Chomba, who also plays for a South African team.

The squad was expected to be joined Wednesday by three Europe-based international strikers, Kalusha Bwalya (PSV Eindhoven of Holland), Johnson Bwalya (Bulle FC of Switzerland), and Charles Musonda of Anderlecht in Belgium.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### 11 U.S. diplomats to get ambassadorships

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton announced plans to nominate 11 career foreign service officers as ambassadors. "These ambassadors are a talented and experienced group who will, I am sure, represent our country's interests ably," Mr. Clinton said. Those to be named as ambassadors are: Howard Jeter, Botswana; William Ramsey, Congo; Peter Romero, Ecuador; Alan Flanagan, El Salvador; Andrew Winter, Gambia; Aurelia Brazale, Kenya; William Dameron, Mali; Dennis Jett, Mozambique; John Davidson, Niger; John Spratt, Swaziland; and Peter Rawson, Rwanda. Mr. Clinton also announced he would nominate Steve Honigman, a former member of the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, as General Counsel for the navy.

### Soares gets royal welcome in U.K.

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana shared a table at a lavish state banquet Tuesday for Portuguese President Mario Soares. The grand occasion in the Buckingham Palace ballroom was their first joint official engagement this year, and the second since they announced their separation in December. In keeping with custom, the couple entered separately and sat several seats apart at the dinner, hosted by Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip. Guests included Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the queen's sister, Princess Margaret, Prince Andrew, Princess Anne, members of the government, ambassadors and prominent business people. In a speech after dinner, the queen recalled the Anglo-Portuguese Treaty of Windsor, signed in 1386, which makes Portugal Britain's oldest ally. "That alliance is only the most obvious illustration of the depth and affection of a friendship which we in Britain greatly treasure and which we hope will long continue," she said. It is the first state visit to Britain by a Portuguese head of state in 15 years.

### Armenians, Azeris in new clash

MOSCOW (AFP) — Armenian troops backed by tanks launched an offensive in the Agdam region of western Azerbaijan but were repelled by Azeri forces, the Azerbaijan Defence Ministry said. Two Azeri soldiers were killed and five wounded in the attack, while the Armenians suffered an unknown number of casualties, the Asa-Trade News Agency quoted the ministry as saying. The Armenian forces also targeted villages near Zangelan in south-east Azerbaijan near the border with Armenia, according to Baku. The new fighting in the five-year-old conflict ended a lull of several days as the two sides observed an informal truce during a visit to the region by a delegation from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Meanwhile the Azerbaijani news agency Turan reported that Russia's special envoy to talks on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Vladimir Kazimirov, was expected in Baku Wednesday. Kazimirov is expected to propose a peace plan on the conflict that Turan said has already been rejected by the Azerbaijan authorities.

### Angola ceasefire pact agreed

LONDON (R) — Portuguese President Mario Soares said Wednesday he had received a report that a ceasefire in Angola's civil war had been agreed at peace talks in Abidjan. Mr. Soares, in an address to a meeting of British members of parliament, said he had received a telegram Wednesday morning telling him that the ceasefire agreement had been signed in Abidjan, capital of Ivory Coast. "If that is true, I do congratulate them because it is a first step towards peace and development," said Mr. Soares, speaking through an interpreter. Portugal is the former colonial ruler of Angola.

### Head of American Muslim Council dies

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dr. Mahmoud Abu Sand, chairman of the American Muslim Council who campaigned for harmony among Muslims, Jews and Christians, has died in England, the council disclosed Tuesday. An announcement said the 62-year-old Abu Sand died of a heart attack last Saturday in Birmingham while on a speaking tour. Mr. Abu Sand was born in Sudan of Egyptian parents and served as a banking official in a number of Muslim countries. He lived in Panama City, Florida. In speeches he called for a dialogue between the "three Abrahamic faiths" of Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

### Clinton receives Dalai Lama

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton met with the Dalai Lama of Tibet and expressed his support for human rights in China, the White House said. The Buddhist leader was at the White House to see Vice President Al Gore. Mr. Clinton walked by Mr. Gore's office and talked briefly to the Dalai Lama. "I don't think (the Dalai Lama) asked for anything in particular. I think he thanked him for his support for human rights in China," spokesman George Stephanopoulos said. The U.S. supports protection of human rights and distinct cultural identity for Tibetans, but recognizes Tibet as politically part of China.

### Gunfire, crowds greet Pakistan premier

PESHAWAR (R) — Celebratory gunfire and huge crowds greeted Pakistan's sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif when he led his campaign against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to the North West Frontier Province early Wednesday. "We will throw him out with the power of the people," Mr. Sharif told a rally in the provincial capital Peshawar. The president, who bails from the province, dismissed Mr. Sharif's 30-month-old government 10 days ago on charges ranging from terrorising his opponents to doling out favours to cronies. Cheering supporters brandishing Kalashnikov rifles fired hundreds of rounds into the air when Mr. Sharif arrived in the early hours of the morning at a rally in a city square. The firing continued for several minutes while the crowd shouted slogans denouncing Mr. Ishaq Khan for dismissing Mr. Sharif.



British army medics based in Vitez, Bosnia, remove burnt remains of two Muslim civilians from their home (AFP photo)

## Army retakes Kashmir police HQ

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Indian soldiers stormed the Kashmir Police Headquarters in Srinagar Wednesday and ended its takeover by striking policemen without resistance, Police Chief B.S. Bedi said.

He said the troops surrounded the complex Tuesday after the strikers locked the gates in protest over the death of a colleague. They struck shortly before dawn.

"There was no resistance," Mr. Bedi told Reuters.

Reporters allowed into the large complex, which includes barracks, said between 1,500 and 2,000 disarmed policemen were assembled in the main compound.

They were to be paraded before militants turned informers, usually hooded and known as

"cats", to see whether any anti-Indian rebels were among them.

The Kashmir police, mostly Muslims with largely Hindu or Sikh officers, have been sidelined during the three-year rebellion against Indian rule of the Himalayan region.

Senior government and security force officials have made no secret of their distrust of Kashmiri police throughout the bloody strife in Jammu and Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in overwhelmingly Hindu India.

They have said frequently in private that they suspect militants get help from the police, who went on strike Friday alleging that a colleague was killed in army custody.

The strikers took over the headquarters in Srinagar, Jammu

and Kashmir's summer capital, Tuesday. It was quickly ringed by heavily-armed soldiers and paramilitary police.

Late Tuesday, the army took over all other police facilities in the state and disarmed the men there, officials said.

The government declared a round-the-clock curfew in Srinagar and the other main towns of the Kashmir Valley.

Extra troops and paramilitary police were put onto Srinagar streets to enforce the curfew. Army armoured personnel carriers took up position at intersections.

Officials who asked not to be identified said the government feared widespread protests in support of the police.

## Pol Pot 'directs' Khmer Rouge meeting

POIPET, Cambodia (R) — Infamous Khmer Rouge chief Pol Pot chaired a meeting of the leadership of the shadowy guerrilla group in the Cambodian jungle this month, a Thai military source said Wednesday.

"The meeting took place three days after the Khmer Rouge pulled out from Phnom Penh," he told Reuters.

"All the senior members such as Khieu Samphan, Ieng Sary, Son Sen and Ta Mok were there."

Under the same leadership the guerrilla group put Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s that killed a million people. It says Pol Pot is retired.

But Phnom Penh-based diplomats and the Thai military say he is still brother. He held during the "killing fields" years from 1975 to 1979.

The Thai officer said Pol Pot was white-haired now but appeared healthy.

The Thai military offered the Khmer Rouge sanctuary during their war with the Vietnamese who ousted them from power and soldiers say Pol Pot now lives in Thailand. Thailand is traditionally wary of Vietnam.

Khieu Samphan, the group's president, and other Khmer Rouge leaders on April 13 withdrew from their Phnom Penh compound, saying they feared for their lives.

They took up residence there after signing a peace pact in October 1991 with the three other Cambodian factions.

Since then they have rejected step by step the key provisions of the pact, including disarmament and opening areas under their

control to U.N. peacekeepers.

They are refusing to take part in a U.N.-run national election scheduled for next month and have been blamed for much of the violence that has marked the approach of the polls.

Ieng Sary was the Khmer Rouge's chief propagandist when they took Cambodia down a Maoist path that turned every citizen into a farm labourer and abolished cities and money.

Son Sen, the high executioner of the regime as security chief, Ta Mok, known to Cambodians as "the butcher", is a general who still runs vast swathes of northern Cambodia.

The Thai source said the meeting took place at Chong Banane, 10 kilometres inside Cambodia across from the Thai border town Ta Phraya.

## U.S. wants rights commissioner; groups threaten to boycott Vienna conference

GENEVA (AFP) — The United States has proposed creation of the post of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights able to intervene in cases of gross rights violations.

Meanwhile, non-governmental organisations have threatened to boycott the World Conference on Human Rights scheduled for June in Vienna.

At preparatory talks for the conference here Tuesday, U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Blackwell said a high commissioner could despatch representatives to trouble spots and make U.N. efforts to promote human rights more effective.

The United States, Mr. Blackwell said, would like to see a United Nations endowed with greater funds able to intervene in cases of mass and prolonged violation of human rights.

"With a lot of atrocities across the globe, it becomes more and more indefensible for the international community not to intervene in persistent gross violations of human rights," he said.

Washington is understood to favour nomination of Ibrahim Fall, the present U.N. under-secretary-general in charge of human rights, to the proposed post.

Mr. Fall is a former foreign minister of Senegal.

The idea of a U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights was put forward in 1968 but rejected by both Moscow and Washington, embroiled in the cold war.

According to Adama Dieng, secretary-general of the International Commission of Jurists, the post carries the danger of "political nominations."

Amid shaky preparations in Geneva for the Vienna rights conference, the American ambassador warned that if a unified platform did not emerge by Friday the level of the delegations would be lowered.

Mr. Blackwell was alluding to a dispute pitting Western nations, supported by eastern Europe and the bulk of Africa, against about a dozen countries mainly in Asia and the Middle East, including

Burma, China, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, as well as Cuba and Colombia.

The West is insisting on the primacy of individual rights while the other side, notably Iran, argues that these rights are not universal but culture-dependent, and reject interference in the internal affairs of a state.

Also Tuesday, non-governmental organisations active in the defence of human rights threatened to boycott the world conference if they were not allowed to participate in the final drafting of the text. They have been stressing the right to self-determination, the universality of human rights, and women's rights.

This threat is "very serious," Mr. Dieng said on behalf of a "contact group" of eight non-governmental organisations representing groups and associations from the five continents. He said China, Colombia, Cuba, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen were working together to sink the Vienna conference.

## OIC grapples with 'terrorism'

KARACHI (AFP) — Muslim countries, often accused of fomenting "terrorism" against the West, are now grappling at a conference here with how to handle attacks aimed at one another.

One suggestion has been to improve their economies, an idea to which many are finally turning, said a senior United Nations diplomat.

"It is the most controversial issue we're dealing with" here, at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) foreign ministers' meeting, said Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

As evidence, delegates pointed to the difficult passage in committee late Tuesday of a resolution calling for a year-long study of a code of conduct.

Turkey had originally urged the OIC to pass a resolution

committing members not to help "terrorist" groups or individuals, but was unable to get enough support.

Senior officials said some of the delegations at the political committee raised objections, saying the issue needed to be studied further, and then be voted at the next OIC meeting, probably in Tunis.

The U.N. diplomat, who attends OIC conference regularly, said the debate had encouraged governments in Muslim countries to finally realise they had to improve their committee to counter the appeal of Islamic fundamentalists, whose followers are accused of committing the "terrorist" acts.

"These governments are beginning to realise that the fundamentalists own the ghettos," he said. "They are taking the

threat of terrorism seriously for the first time at an OIC conference and are realising the economic implications."

In the ghettos, where poverty is rampant and there are no services, the fundamentalist comes in and becomes very popular," the diplomat said.

The plight of Muslims in Bosnia has grabbed centre stage at the meeting in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, which began on Sunday and is to end on Thursday, and has produced unanimous condemnation of the Serbs.

But the issue of "terrorism" has revealed a split between the Islamic community.

On one side are states like Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt, all of which had supported Turkey's initial resolution condemning "terrorism," according to diplomats.

## COLUMN

### Future empress completes crash course on royal ways

TOKYO (AP) — Crown Prince Naruhito's fiancée, Masako Owada, has completed a crash course designed to ease her into palace life after she and Japan's royal heir wed in June. Ms. Owada, the 29-year-old daughter of the nation's top career diplomat, completed her "princess education" with two hours of lessons on imperial rituals and international relations. She was also required to bone up on such subjects as classical poetry, Japanese history and the constitution during her six-week course. Empress Michiko, Prince Naruhito's mother, and other princesses have undergone similar lessons. The lessons are deemed necessary because of the myriad traditions and customs — many virtually unknown outside of the palace — that have been built up over the imperial family's more than 1,500-year history. One area of particular importance are the dozens of imperial Shinto religious rites carried out by the emperor and imperial family members each year — a remnant of the days when the emperor's main function was that of a Shaman. Miss Owada, who has a degree in economics from Harvard and who has done post-graduate work at Oxford, was reportedly a quick study. Palace officials refuse to comment, however, the wedding, scheduled for June 9, is expected to cost 355 million yen (\$3.2 million) and feature ample court pomp and tradition.

### Prince Andrew gets a boat

PORTSMOUTH, England (AP) — Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II, took command of a Royal Navy warship and said he was eager to show his daughters around. Prince Andrew, 33, who holds the rank of lieutenant commander, was put on charge of HMS Cotnamore, a 625-tonne minehunter. With no mines to be hunted in British waters at the moment, the prince said he would have his weekend free to see his daughters, Princess Beatrice, 4, and Princess Eugenie, 3. "I hope in the not too distant future they will come on board and see what their father is doing for real," he told reporters who visited the ship. Prince Andrew separated a year ago from the former Sarah Ferguson, who has custody of the children.

### Swedish royals visit memorial of fallen monarch

LUETZEN, Germany (AFP) — King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden paid tribute to a fallen Swedish monarch Wednesday as they toured the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt at the mid-point of their three-day official visit to Germany. Warmly greeted by several hundred locals, the royal couple visited a memorial to King Gustav II Adolf, a Swedish king who was slain in 1632 in combat at Luetzen against the Prussian General Albrecht Wallenstein, in one of the bloodiest battles of the Thirty Year War. They were to visit the towns of Halle and Wittenberg before heading for Berlin and the Baltic coastal state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

### Chopin score to be sold at auction

PARIS (AP) — A Chopin musical score stashed in a trunk marked "old clothes" during World War II to protect it from Nazis goes on the auction block on May 26. Composed by Frederic Chopin in 1833, the score of La Grande Valse Brillante is in unusually fine condition and is expected to fetch one million francs (\$200,000). It will be sold by auctioneer Jacques Tajan at the Drouot House in a sale of musical scores including works by Beethoven and Schubert, plus another by Chopin, Polonaise-Fantaisie. The original score of La Grande Valse Brillante belongs to Viscount Paul De La Panouse, who found it almost 40 years ago in the attic of his family's 16th-century Chateau of Thoiry, outside Paris. During World War II, a caretaker managed to keep the manuscript and other family valuables out of the hands of Nazi soldiers who requisitioned the chateau. While the caretaker took them on a drawn-out tour of the grounds, his son threw centuries-old documents into potato sacks and trunks of old clothes to hide them. La Panouse, 49, said he discovered the forgotten score as a boy, but thought it was a copy. It was later authenticated and performed in 1969 in the musical event of the season.